ANECDOTES

AND

CHARACTERS

OF THE

HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE

COURTS OF HANOVER AND LONDON,

FROM THE

ACT OF SETTLEMENT

TO THE

YOUTH OF GEORGE THE THIRD;

INCLUDING AN

ORIGINAL MEMOIR OF THE ELECTRESS SOPHIA:

AND A JOURNAL,

SAID TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY THE UNHAPPY CONSORT OF GEORGE THE FIRST,

THE PRINCESS SOPHIA DOROTHEA.

BY JOHN BROWN,

AUTHOR OF THE "NORTHERN COURTS," &c.

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PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

ALTHOUGH the principal object of this work was to collect and condense into one volume, the history of the unhappy consort of GEORGE the FIRST, which is not to be found in any of the old and established histories of England, and but slightly treated on in others,—the Editor has, from various authorities, selected passages, illustrative of the personal history of the Brunswick monarchs, and given them in their original form; which original or compiled *matter, takes up the History of the* House of Brunswick, a few years prior to the act of settlement; and he has, from his own stores, added an original, and, he believes, an authentic history of the YOUTH of George III.

The partiality of *Whig* historians, gave a lustre to Sophia, Electress of Hanover, the mother of George the First, which her real character did not deserve: and the same bias led them altogether to omit the name of his oppressed consort, whom he had, as a despot, consigned to a prison, without any other or better reason than his will and his power. Over

the savage injuries inflicted on this greatly injured woman, the iron hand of the tyrant drew a veil, which, for a time, covered and concealed the victim of lust and cruelty, and the injustice by which she was oppressed. But still, the fate of that high-minded, beautiful, and accomplished Princess, deserted, as she was, by all her relations, and by all her former associates, excited a powerful sympathy amongst the liberal and cultivated of polished society, in every nation of Europe. For a time, indeed, her savage and brutal husband (George the First) appears to have had the field to himself; and he filled every court, where so petty a prince as he then was had any influence, with the most degrading accusations against his hapless wife; and if she had been as guilty as the denunciations of her oppressor were coarse and vehement, she would, indeed, have forfeited all claim to respect, but not to sympathy, because, however bad she might have conducted herself, the adulteries of her husband were still more disgusting and notorious, and not a breath of slander had rested on her fame, till after her ill-fated marriage with that mercenary and ambitious Prince: to whose vices, therefore, her own aberrations were solely to be attributed. Her oppressor, though he could hermetically close his pale and blighted victim in a lonely castle, and for ever

debar her of the presence of her children, could not deprive her of disinterested advocates, who had the sense and humanity to consider, that she had not had a fair or an open trial,—that her coarse, vindictive, gross, and sensual husband, was the absolute master and mover of the tribunals by which she is said to have been *degraded* and *divorced*, and that her judges were as completely *his servants* as his lacqueys or valets; that *her* character, previous to marriage, had not only been free from reproach, but was known to be of the most amiable order. That the match was forced upon her, who was every way its victim, and had originated entirely in the avarice of her husband, who was her own *first cousin*, and whose claim to her hand was so enforced by his father and mother, that there was no possibility of a refusal, although the notorious debaucheries, and deep-rooted profligacy of her husband were so gross, that all the courts of Europe resounded with recitals of *his* licentious amours, and general profligacy of character. When these facts were publicly known, every reflecting person admitted the probability that the fair captive, and unhappy mother, had been falsely accused, and unjustly sentenced, through the power and the malice of a guilty husband. That the Electoral Prince, her gaoler and oppressor, had pretensions to personal courage,

did not justify his having, on many occasions, exercised his valour by *beating* his beauteous wife, and dragging her along by her dishevelled locks, to gratify his concubines, who were the instigators and the *spectators* of those outrages; nor did his ambition to shine as a first-rate *intriguer*, warrant his having selected the character of his unhappy consort as the object which, by circumvention, by subservient and *venal diplomatists*, by stratagems of all kinds of the *sap* and *mine* process, he sought to demolish. In defiance of every artifice, the baseness of his personal character, and the grossness of his propensities, spread rapidly with his vituperations against his wife, and his own reputation suffered in a still greater degree than that of the calumniated Princess.

That her husband was a man of coarse taste and dissolute habits there can be no doubt; and none, that he married, solely from motives of state policy, a beautiful and virtuous young Princess, whom he never loved, and whose life he began to render miserable as soon as the marriage ceremony had been performed; yet, it is more than probable, that his minions and his concubines, seeing his aversion to his wife, fabricated the most atrocious calumnies against her, forged, or caused to be forged, a variety of letters, tending to prove the unhappy Princess had been false

to her profligate lord, and they suborned and disciplined a host of false witnesses to give support to their calumnies Where the heart is violently predisposed to think well or ill, it eagerly adopts whatever conforms to its prejudices The Prince had deeply and irreparably injured his wife, and, too often is it seen, that an oppressed person has no foe so inveterate as that by whom a great injury has been inflicted, and the heart most prone to the commission of crime, is often the least capable to forgive Thus situated, it is no wonder that GEORGE the FIRST, when Electoral Prince of Hanover, too readily received every report that was discreditable to his neglected, insulted, forsaken wife, nor, that his attendant courtiers found it their surest way to his favour to vilify her character, and strive, by all practicable means, to pursue the unhappy lady to utter ruin

According to the united testimony of German, Dutch, French, and English authors, never was a young and beautiful woman more cruelly treated, nor her morals exposed to worse pollution It was even asserted, by a Dutch anonymous author, that the malice of her dissolute husband hurried him to the infamous expedient of throwing his own wife, and the mother of his son and heir, in the way of profligate but accomplished chevaliers, in order, if successful in

their attempts upon her honour, they might betray their victim, and hand her over to punishment, to infamy, and ruin. This, however, is so extravagant a flight of matrimonial depravity, that it exceeds the bounds of credibility, and must be imputed to the universal indignation excited by the gross depravity, and unrelenting cruelty of her worthless husband.

It is not the intention of the Editor to draw any comparison between the personal characters and conduct of the consorts of the first and the fourth George, who have sat on the English throne; but there is the closest possible analogy between the conspiracies of which those Princesses were the victims. It is historically allowed, that the Princess Sophia Dorothea admitted the Count Konigsmark to visit her chamber whilst she was yet in bed, and to salute her hand: but great allowance must be made for the free manners of that age; and it was not alone, but in the presence of her female attendants, that the Count was introduced and saw the Princess; and it is fully confirmed, by many concurrent testimonies, that the concubines of the *Elector* and the *Electoral Prince,* her father-in-law and her husband! planned and accelerated an interview intended to effect the death of the one, and the utter destruction of the other!

And as respects the stronger fact of the consort

of George the First having resolved to quit her children, even that action depends upon other circumstances, for if she acted with the privity of her mother, the Duchess of Zell, to whose relations in France she was about to retire (a fact that has been asserted by foreign writers), it cannot in justice be termed *deserting them*, and the unhappy persecuted sufferer might hope, that when she was out of the reach of her husband's power, she might negociate with him on terms of greater equality, and with a better chance of obtaining justice, than when surrounded by his concubines, and hourly exposed to the most brutal treatment and intolerable insults Lastly, the most suspicious circumstance of all,—the young Count, who had spoken so lightly of the Princess at the court of the profligate King of Poland, and who had kissed her hand in bed, was to accompany her to France! It should in justice be remembered, that this nobleman had been bred in her father's court, and that she felt, as she avowed, a *sister's* kindness towards him, but no more She was a Princess of high rank, and as, at the time of the meditated flight, Lewis the Fourteenth was pouring his troops towards the Belgic frontiers, she could not travel without some protector, and who more proper than a soldier of high character? Konigsmark was not rich, the Princess had made no provision for her

future support; and the project was confined, according to the best authorities, to the Count escorting her to her mother's relations in France, and there leaving her, till a regular and legal separation from her husband could be effected.

These suggestions appeared many years since, in a Dutch periodical and contemporaneous work: the Editor thinks it was the '*Hollandsche Mercurius*,' a celebrated political magazine, which held its rank for ages in that republic, and which contains a rich and unexplored mine of historical facts and documents intimately connected with the history of England; and he much regrets that he has it not in his power, at this interesting crisis, to have recourse to that and other foreign authorities; but he can conscientiously aver that he never saw any work in the Dutch tongue, so devoted to the politics of *King William*, and the Orange, or *Protestant cause*, as to calumniate the wife of George the First; or assert that she merited the cruel sufferings she was doomed to undergo; and never were fouler means resorted to by any miscreants to accomplish, by *conspiracy*, the destruction of a human being, than were employed against this heroic woman, whose fortitude baffled and confounded all her enemies, though it could not avert the dreadful sentence of perpetual imprisonment in a solitary castle, separated for ever from her children (George

the Second, and the Queen of Prussia), whom she never saw more.

The principal characters concerned in this royal Brunswick tragedy were

The *Elector* (formerly Duke) *of Hanover*, father of George the First, of England.

The *Princess Sophia*, his wife She was daughter to the Prince Palatine, and the Princess Elizabeth his consort, consequently, grand-daughter to James the First of England, and great grand-daughter to Mary Queen of Scots; a busy, intriguing Princess, but a most accomplished woman.

George Lewis, Electoral Prince, their son, afterwards the first British monarch of that name.

Sophia Dorothea, consort to this Prince, the heiress-general to the reigning Duke of Zell, elder brother to the Elector of Hanover, married almost by compulsion, owing to the intrigues of the Electress Sophia of Hanover.

The reigning *Duke of Zell*; and his consort, an elegant and beautiful French lady, whom he married from motives of affection She was afterwards involved in great unhappiness through the malevolent intrigues of the Electress; the Duke resigning his daughter to the mercy of her incensed husband.

Count Konigsmark, a celebrated Swede, well known at most of the courts of Europe, by his elegant person, his courage, and licentious amours.

Count de Plaaten, chief minister to the Elector of Hanover; a subtle, false, and worthless *minion;* the pander of his own dishonour; his wife being one of the Elector's mistresses, whose sister was the favourite of his son, and the chief instrument of bringing his Princess to destruction. The Count, in consequence of his base subserviency, was created, by the Elector's influence, a Count of the Roman empire; and that minister, with Baron Bernstorff, ruled Hanover despotically, and disposed of its population and resources almost as they pleased, in their master's name.

The *Countess Von Plaaten*, an infamous woman, who intrigued with Count Konigsmark; then proposed a marriage with her sister, the mistress to the Electoral Prince; and upon finding that the Count was in love with the Princess Sophia Dorothea, she planned and effected the destruction of them both.

Henrietta Von Meissenbourg, sister to the Countess, and a favourite mistress to George the First, prior to the year 1690; after his accession to the throne of England, created an English Peeress in her own right!

Baron Bernstorff, minister to the Duke of Zell, and afterwards to George the First, a corrupt and wicked man; without morals, without conscience, insatiate in his avarice, implacable in his resentments. He was suspected to have suborned most of the false witnesses who gave

evidence against the consort of George the First. This vindictive and perfidious wretch administered to all the vicious propensities of that Prince long prior to his ascending the English throne, whereby he became almost his master. In England, Bernstorff's practices were so corrupt, that he was frequently menaced with impeachment This man, his accomplices Bothman, Robotham, and the Duchess of Kendal, were deeply engaged in all manner of court-traffic, such as the sale of titles, places, patents, &c and rapidly made enormous fortunes

Such were the miscreants whose foul machinations involved an amiable Princess in unmerited disgrace, and irreparable ruin, and whose characters are thus designated, the better to enable the reader to comprehend the events treated of in the several divisions of this work, the *first* part of which commences several years after the marriage of George the First, when suspicions of Count Konigsmark, as a favoured lover of his consort, had been too successfully excited, and when the infernal plot, formed by the ministers of the courts of Hanover and Zell, and by the concubines of the Elector, and the Electoral Prince, was just on the point of explosion, and which effectually destroyed the victims it was intended to reach

Whatever impression its perusal may produce,

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as to the innocence of the lady, every humane bosom must abhor the cruel and cowardly manner in which she was oppressed. Sophia Dorothea was literally hunted down by blood-hounds in the human shape---the mistresses, the ministers, and the agents of her husband. The chief object of whom, next to the gratification of vindictive malice, appears to have been to compel her to acknowledge herself AN ADULTRESS, and to consent to a DIVORCE. The principal interest of this little piece, at the present day, is to show by what vile means the consort of the FIRST George was overwhelmed by SUBORNED EVIDENCE and FORGED LETTERS; not wholly to criminate her husband, but rather to show that her worst enemies, and most indefatigable pursuers, were profligate COURTIERS and COURTESANS, who employed all manner of abhorrent manœuvres to keep the mind of GEORGE the FIRST in a state of constant irritation, whereby they acquired a complete ascendancy over him, and governed, after his FATHER'S DEATH, his dominions as they pleased.

It is too probable, in both instances, that much of the misery, and discreditable severities which stain the pages of history, arose from treacherous courtiers, or vindictive mistresses. The infamy and perfidy of the Plaatens, Bernstorffs, and Bothmans, caused the ruin of Sophia Doro-

thea; and whilst the horrid depravity---the naked *perjuries of 'the* DOUGLAS,' *stand unpunished,* it is just and rational to fear, that George the Fourth may also have been *deceived* by false and suborned evidence, and fabricated documents prepared *for purposes and from motives very similar to those* imputed *to* the polluted nest of Hanoverian court-vermin, whose *names have been* rendered immortal by their infamy, and it will *be hereafter shown, by extracts taken from the 'Princess of Zell,'* that the ends of those infamous *conspirators* were as miserable as their lives had been wicked.

ANECDOTES AND CHARACTERS

OF THE

HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK.

PART I.

Extract from a scarce Work, entitled "Memoirs of the Love and State Intrigues of the Court of Hanover, from the Marriage of the PRINCESS OF ZELL, *to the tragical Death of* COUNT KONIGSMARK."

"IT happened one evening, whilst Count Konigsmark was at the Polish court, that both the king and his guests having drank away their modesty and discretion, a proposal was made and accepted, for every man in turn to entertain the company with an account of his love intrigues, not omitting either names or circumstances, or whatever else might give a zest to the narration; but set the example, and few scruple to follow *where monarchs lead the way**.

* This is indeed a "*home truth;*" where a monarch's life is deeply tainted with vice, no limits can be assigned to its mo-

"When, therefore, it came to the turn of Count Konigsmark, he first made his adventures with Madame de Platen the subject of his comedy, which he set forth with all the wit and humour of which he was master, and likewise as minutely as possible, not forgetting that after all that had passed between them, Madame de Platen had had the excessive goodness to make him an offer of her daughter*: neither did he stop here, for the wine having turned his brain, he had the rashness to talk of the (Electoral) Princess; to expose the savage disposition of her husband (George Lewis, afterwards George the First of England), to boast of being in her confidence, and to publish, that at his return, she had agreed to make her escape with him into France

The company was numerous, and, as might be

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rally contagious influence. This Augustus was one of the most dissolute sensualists in existence, no woman could be safe if within his reach, he was restrained by no feelings of decency, no visitings of remorse *his own sister* is ranked amongst the number of his victims To add to the infamy of that sensualist, he first tempts the garrulous boy, as well as his other licentious guests, to speak without regard to discretion, and perhaps, indifferent as to truth or falsehood, and then as will be seen, he immediately betrays his unsuspecting guest! He was indeed *a true legitimate!*

* This noble young lady was then mistress to Prince George, as *her mother* stood in the same situation to *the father*!!

expected, all attentive, but nobody more so than a certain *Hanoverian nobleman*, who being in disgrace, had taken sanctuary at the court of Augustus, King of Poland, and now thought he had the means in his power to make his peace. Accordingly, Count Konigsmark had no sooner ended his frantic confession, but feigning to be quite intoxicated with the fumes of the liquor, *he tumbled under the table*, and was carried off, as it was supposed, to sleep himself sober. But sleep was the least of his concern*; he employed the residue of the night in filling a large packet to Madame de Plaaten, containing all the particulars of Konigsmark's most inexcusable folly, which, at day-break, he sent off by express to the court of Hanover.

"The king, himself, moreover, recollecting the next day the escapes of the night, and *(like a true legitimate)* thinking the honour of *all sovereigns* wounded in those bold attempts of the Count, likewise despatched a courier with a confirmation of what had been betrayed before by the subtle Hanoverian.

* This fellow, base as he was to take such an advantage of a drunken comrade, was not half so bad as the ever execrable O—pt—da; whose name, with Signior Majochi's, and their employers and abettors, are consigned to deathless infamy, as the very worst of recorded traitors.

"Nothing could equal the rage of Madame de Platen on the receipt of this intelligence, but the pleasure she took in persuading herself that the head of the apostate lover would probably answer for the intemperance of his tongue. And that no time might be lost in spreading her snares, she hastened to the Elector's closet, to communicate as much as she thought proper of the Hanoverian's packet, that is to say, all that related to the escape of the Princess, urging withal, that so black a treason ought, if possible, to be punished as soon as known, and that, in order to get the traitor into their power, any flattering invitation of some higher post in the army, would not fail to quicken his return, since it would afford him the opportunity he waited for, to carry off the Princess.

"While they were yet in this conference, the ...ount, her husband, sent his secretary to the ...ector, with the King of Poland's despatch, ...ich was cautiously conceived in such terms ...pared Madame de Platen, and only expressed ...nder concern for the honour of the Princess, ...iminally exposed by the ungrateful Swede. So authentic a confirmation of the Hanove... intelligence, Madame de Plaaten did not ...o enforce with all the arguments in her ..., and, consequently, made sure of her

"But she might have spared her pains, for Konigsmark himself, being apprized next day of the fault he had committed in his cups, and justly afraid that it might be used to his prejudice, set out shortly after for Hanover, in hopes to carry his project into execution, before the ill consequences he had reason to dread, should take place.

"As in such places as Hanover it is scarce possible for any stranger of distinction to arrive without the court's being made acquainted with it, the Count judged it to be most for his interest to wait upon the Elector as usual, like a person who would not be thought conscious of any misbehaviour: but though the Elector endeavoured to receive him, likewise, as if he had no suspicion of the truth, he was not able to be so much upon his guard but that Konigsmark perceived all was not right, and, therefore, concluded every thing was to be feared.

"Taking his leave therefore as soon as the forms of a court would allow, he made his next visit to the Electress, where he also found the Electoral Princess, Sophia Dorothea, who could scarce contain the satisfaction she received at the sight of one whom she looked upon as her deliverer: that not the least cause for suspicion might be given, she received his court only at a distance, and in common with the Electress; but

withal, by a whisper, sent by the Baroness de Molckt, which she believed had passed unnoticed, let Count Konigsmark know that she would grant him the honour of a private audience in the evening.

"But though this message was sent and received with all imaginable precaution, Madame de ******, sister to the Countess de Plhaten, and mistress to the Electoral Prince, who was then in the circle, kept a vigilant eye on all that passed, and with the shrewdness peculiar to the sex, guessed at the whole truth, which she failed not to communicate both to her sister and the Elector, who being under the influence of this brace of furies, was led to believe and to act implicitly as they desired and directed.

"They urged that Count Konigsmark would not fail to visit the Princess this very night, and perhaps, to pacify his own fears, or to put the event out of fortune's power, might over-persuade her not to run the risks of another day that, therefore, his Electoral Highness ought forthwith to exert himself, and secure the honour of his family, by the death of this bold invader while he was yet within his reach, time being the grand hinge on which the success of all things turned

"This fatal cabal lasted the whole day, which was spent by Count Konigsmark in making

visits, and receiving compliments on his return; a ceremony which he thought necessary, both to fill up a tedious interval, and likewise, if possible, to prevent any suspicion of his plot, which was now in every circumstance ripe for execution.

"The evening at last came, and all things seemed to favour his design. The Electoral Prince was at the court of Berlin on a visit; Madame de Plaaten was indisposed, and the Elector, as Konigsmark fondly thought, entertained no other thoughts than of her recovery. To the Baroness de Molckt's apartment he therefore flew with more than ordinary transport (having first caused his equipage to be in readiness, and appointed his servants their post), and was by her introduced to the Princess, at whose feet he immediately fell with an ardour which mere court devotion very rarely inspires; and being raised by her Highness with all the gracious expression which could signify esteem and acknowledgment, he proceeded to open to her the dispositions he had made to render her escape both certain and commodious; with which she appearing to be extremely well satisfied, he took the hint to press her to an instant departure, enforcing the favourable circumstances before mentioned; explaining to her the expediency of so doing, if they had any regard to their com-

mon safety, and enlarging on the dangers which probably might attend the least delay; all which he uttered with so much vehemence and passion on the one hand, and tenderness on the other, that the tears often started into his eyes, and dropped from her's

"So near a prospect of deliverance had all the effect the Count could wish; she thought of it with ecstasy, and regarded him with something more than gratitude But when upon the point of giving herself up to his conduct, the tenderness of the mother got the better of the resentments of the wife, and she insisted upon being indulged with one day to give her last embraces to her children, before she took leave of them for ever!

"Both Konigsmark and the Baroness used their utmost endeavours to dissuade the Princess from this unseasonable tenderness; but to no purpose. '*My children! my children!*' said she, '*have never offended me; nor should I bear the reproaches of my own conscience, if I set out without leaving such an impression of their unhappy mother's affection upon their minds, as time itself shall not be able to efface.*'

"This absolute refusal struck Konigsmark to the heart. From the most sanguine hopes he fell at once into despair, and, like one convinced

that his fate was sealed, passionately
hand, pressed it to his bosom, and sig
'*Adieu, Madam! may I prove a fal*
'*but I fear this is the last time you n*
'*your Konigsmark.*'

"Whilst these events took place in
of the Princess, the spies of Madame
carried the news of the Count's visit t
cabal which we left *sitting* upon hi
upon which, the Elector immediatel
to close with his favourite's bloody
and four of the most desperate ruffi
guard were appointed to put it in
who had scarcely taken the posts assig
before the unhappy victim, muffled
cloak, fell into their merciless hands; a
he made a shift to draw his sword, and
himself like a man who was resolved n
with his life tamely, his valour was o
use, than to redouble the fury of his
who, in a few minutes, cut him almost
after which, having, by a signal befo
upon, given information that they ha
their orders, the Elector himself join
and being satisfied his vengeance h
where it was intended it should alig
dered the body to be thrown into an
privy, which, the next morning, was b

as if it were esteemed the only sepulchre proper for one who had attempted to dishonour the Electoral house*.

"As the spot where this tragedy was performed was at some distance from the apartment of the Princess, she heard nothing of the scuffle between Count Königsmark and his assassins, but, immediately after his departure, began to prepare in earnest for her escape, which she had fixed for the night following, and when retired to rest, slept with less perturbation than usual, as believing her captivity would so soon be at an end

"But if the night was peace, the morning was trouble, for scarcely had she opened her eyes, before she saw the Baroness de Molckt approaching her bed-side with horror in her face, and heard her sob forth, 'Alas! madam! 'the Count! the poor Count!' without being able to utter more, nor, indeed, was there any

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* If this account is correct, of course that which appears in the extracts from the Walpoliana must be false This narrative having been written by the sister of the Count Konigsmark, its title to impartiality may well be questioned, as to the incidents, she was likely to become much better acquainted with them, than the Earl of Orford, for, however fond George the First might have been of the Earl's father, this was a subject on which, most probably, he had little inclination to discourse —*Editor.*

occasion, for her presaging soul but too easily divined the sad reality. The Baroness melted into tears, and as an accessary, not only lamented the fate of Konigsmark, but trembled for her own. On the contrary, the Princess, as if affliction served only to ennoble her faculties, and increase her fortitude, scarcely suffered her complexion to change its hue, or a single muscle to express the least sign of sorrow or despondency. 'It is well,' said she, 'I desired to 'be free; and if I become so, no matter for the 'road: they have already done their worst.'

"By this time, the Baroness de M., having recovered the use of her speech, proceeded to inform her, that as to the particulars of Konigsmark's destiny, they were yet unknown: only the noise of a fray had been heard; a large quantity of blood had been found; the Elector, in person, had given some mysterious orders; the Count had never been seen since, and all his papers had been seized. To which the Princess only replied, 'Then our adversaries will, at once, 'be made sensible of our innocence, and their own 'guilt; and we shall suffer what they deserve.'

"This had relation to certain letters of her's (the Princess's) to the Count; in which the whole scheme of her intended escape was fully laid open; and the dotage of the Elector, the brutal behaviour of his son, the infamous lives of

the two sisters, their bosom favourites, and the lethargic indifference of the duke (of Zell) her father, were treated with all the severity that indignities and provocations without number could inspire

" Upon these mischievous letters, which none but the inconsiderate Konigsmark would have preserved, the Elector, and the two (infamous) sisters were sitting in judgment, during this melancholy conversation between the Princess and her confidante, and scarcely was it ended before an officer burst rudely into the apartment with an order to seize the Baroness, and commit her into close custody, and to confine the Princess to her chamber till the Elector's farther pleasure should be known

" The same day an express was dispatched to the Electoral Prince at Berlin, and another to Count Bernstorff at Zell, to be delivered by him to the Duke, with instructions calculated to aggravate the conduct of the Princess, and qualify the outrage of putting her under confinement, all supported by such letters as she had written when her mind was most exasperated, and in which her language was most liable to sinister constructions —

" The Prince, as it is easy to conceive, felt no other emotion, on this occasion, than that of resentment, as he had never loved his consort, it gave him little uneasiness to find that he had no

longer any share in the heart he had taken such pains to alienate: but then his pride was hurt, and one victim he thought was scarcely sufficient to atone for the injury which he was persuaded to believe had been done him.

"So adroitly did Count Bernstorff play his part at Zell, that though the Duchess (the mother to the Princess) threw herself at the feet of the Duke, and conjured him in the most urgent and affecting manner, not to give too lightly into ill impressions of the Princess his daughter, he continued immovable, saying only, 'As she hath 'forgotten the duty of a daughter, she shall find, 'I have no longer the bowels of a father.' He then empowered Bernstorff to signify to the Elector his brother, that the *criminal* he had in his power, was likewise at his mercy, and that however rigid his sentence should be, he would ratify it.

"This dispatch, savage as it was, did the Count Von Plaaten, at the instance of his wife, put into the hands of the Princess, and at the same time gave her to understand, that it was the Elector's pleasure that she should be immediately removed to the castle of A——n, in the dominions of Zell, there to remain a prisoner during the remainder of her life!

"But so little was either the message or the letter able to shock her firmness, that with an

open countenance, she said, 'Tell the Elector 'that when I turn my back on Hanover, every 'road is pleasant' To find that received as a favour, which was meant as a punishment, not affording the Count the triumph he expected, he had the insolence to ask her, whether her familiarity with Konigsmark had rendered a midwife necessary? and if she were already provided? and was again put to shame by the Princess replying, 'Sir, these modest questions 'of your s would be more pertinent to your lady, 'or, if you are afraid to take such liberties with 'her, entreat your master to do it for you'

"At that instant, an officer of the guards coming in, and informing her that a coach waited for her, and that she was committed to his charge, 'Let us go, Captain,' said she, 'we 'can never be in worse company than we are 'now to leave' 'I am first to inform you,' said the officer, 'that Count Konigsmark is 'dead' 'He is happy then,' said the Princess, 'which the guilty never can be' At these words, darting a withering look of scorn and contempt on the disappointed wretch she was on the point of leaving behind her, she quitted the room, and, without so much as asking where she was to be conducted, bade them drive on*.

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* The original translation from another German work, which

"Being at length arrived at the castle that was appointed for her prison, though in the dominions of the Duke her father, and but eight miles from his capital, she found herself surrounded with the creatures of her husband, not one of whose faces she had beheld before: and the very next day after, two Secretaries from the court of Hanover*, questioned her by authority concerning her correspondence with the deceased Count, and the particulars of her intended escape into France, to whom, though she was under no obligation to plead, she related the motives and views and ends of her whole conduct with the utmost candour and minuteness, and even took the sacrament by way of confirmation, that all was true, '*Not,*' said she, '*to exact any favour from him who was* '*my husband, but in justice to my own fame.*'

"Nor was this noble behaviour of her's lost upon the impartial world, who compared what she had done, with what she had suffered; and the gallantry of her defence with *the shock it gave* to her malicious prosecutors, and pronounced her *not only free from guilt, but worthy of a better fate.*

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will be found further on, purporting to contain the Princess's own journal, differs very materially from this account; as the reader will perceive.

* The Journal of the Princess makes mention of this circumstance.

"As a proof of which it is notorious that the Prince her husband, fearful lest the Duke of Zell should in time get the better of his own peculiar resentment, on account of his daughter's unguarded expressions in her letters to Konigsmark*, and, in consequence thereof should retract the instrument of succession then subsisting in his favour---actually made her proposals of a RECONCILIATION, to which she returned the following high-spirited reply, '*Tell the Prince* '*that he requires an impossibility,—for, if I am* '*guilty, I am unworthy of him, and if I am in-* '*nocent, he is unworthy of me*'

"This haughty refusal, which was little expected, so highly exasperated the Prince, that Bernstorff received immediate orders to solicit the Duke of Zell, his master, to give his consent to a divorce, *which he found means to obtain*, and in virtue thereof (the Duke's consent to divorce his daughter!) such practices were tried in the two consistories of *Hanover* and *Zell*, that both were induced to pronounce the marriage null and void, which was nevertheless done with such apparent partiality, that though the Prince was left at liberty to marry, when and whom he

* The Princess's Journal alludes to *forged letters*, as well as genuine

pleased*, the Princess was denied the like indulgence,—and that no door of hope might ever be left open to her, when the Elector lay upon his death-bed, he induced the Duke his brother to oblige himself by the most solemn oath which could be formed, not to alter the succession of his dominions; and Bernstorff took especial care to have it particularly observed; for he had the address to preserve his ascendancy over his master, so entirely to the last, that when the Duke himself likewise felt his dissolution approach, though importuned for access and forgiveness by the unhappy Princess his daughter, he was influenced to reject all her supplications, though backed by those of her mother; and having thus refused to show mercy, he died without a pretext to ask it.

" The Princess had now a mother's sufferings to lament, as well as her own, for scarcely was the Duke cold in his grave, before his Dowager

* The consistorial courts of Hanover and Zell were so completely under the control of their Sovereigns, that not the least dishonour ought to attach to the memory of the Princess, even if this dubious fact were a confirmed truth.—It was notorious to all the world that the husband lived in a state of open adultery, as well as *his father*; and yet, the son *was divorced*, with the *agreeable appendage* of marrying again if he pleased. So much for its moral justice!

was obliged to quit the ducal palace (to which, nevertheless, no other branch of the Electoral house repaired), and in the article of her revenue she found a wide difference between the promises of the Court of Hanover, and their fulfilment.

"The new Elector, however, seemed at last inclinable to abate his rigour to the Princess his consort, by causing a tender to be made of her liberty, but she was above accepting as a favour, what she deemed to be her right, nor *from him* would she deign to accept of any favour at all.

"To the melancholy, as well as to the philosophic mind, all dwellings are indifferent; and thus the place of her confinement, which was at first so terrible, *became at last her choice*; and so right a use did she make of her calamities, that she heard of the death of Madame de Plaaten, her worst enemy, without the least triumph, and of the exaltation of the Elector to the crown of England, without the least envy, or the most remote wish to share in his good fortune.

"To hear that her friend, the Baroness de Molckt, had had courage to let herself down from the tower of Nienberg, which was one hundred and eighty feet high, and the good fortune to make her escape to Vienna, after travelling seventy English miles on foot, she used to mention as one of the truest pleasures she had ever

tasted, and that she lived to close her mother's eyes, as the most acute of her misfortunes.

"After this fatal period, she found herself in the world, as one who had *no relation* in it, or interest in its concerns; without joy in the present, or hope from the future; at once an affecting example to the princes of the earth, of the vanity of sublunary greatness; and a warning to the world in general, not to presume too confidently, *that innocence is always secure from shame, and beyond the reach of slander.*

"DEATH, at last, looked upon her with a compassionate eye, and drew the curtain on her calamities, but so peculiar was the rigour of her destiny, that even death could scarcely redeem her from the hand of her oppressor, those most concerned in her loss* being denied the common privilege of expressing their sense of it, even by a ceremonial mourning."

Such is the close of an admirably written work, whose real author, or origin, it is at this distance of time, impossible to ascertain. It might have been written, as stated, by the Countess Konigsmark, and it is about equally probable, that it was the production of some par-

* George, Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Second. The children of the Queen of Prussia.

tisan of the House of Stuart, who wished t
throw discredit on the new dynasty. It i
probable that the work was cautiously circulated, and it is at present extremely scarce, so much so, that very rarely a copy is to be found. But, whether it be a Jacobitical production, or it really was written in the German tongue, by the lady named, and afterwards translated into English, it is very elegantly written, and no one need blush to own such a production.

Fifty-three years subsequent to the date of the above anonymous work, a couple of small volumes were published, under the following title:

MEMOIRS
OF THE
PRINCESS OF ZELL,
CONSORT TO
KING GEORGE THE FIRST.

These were dedicated to the late Margravine of Anspach, whose last husband, the Margrave, as a lineal descendant from the Princess Sohia Dorothea of Zell, as well as the royal famies of England and Prussia; and if the children hich that lady bore were *not* the children orge the First, then the present royal family uld have no legal right to the throne, for the of settlement expressly specified that the crown

should descend to the heirs of the Princess Sophia of Hanover, daughter of the Elector Palatine, and grand-daughter to James the First.

The name of the lady, who appeared as the authoress of the *Princess of Zell,* was SARAH DRAPER. The following is a copy of her address

"TO THE READER.

"The manuscript, from which the following sheets have been translated, has been *many years* in the *possession* of the editor. It is difficult to say, whence that manuscript originated; whether from a German publication, *cautiously* printed, and little circulated; or whether the manuscript itself is an original paper, written by some person connected with the Court of Zell, and intimately acquainted with the anecdotes therein related.

"However that may be, the editor has *long since* rendered it into English, conceiving it contained many circumstances, not to be found in any of our historians, and which may be considered as singular by all such persons as are disposed to take an interest in the events of a Court, with which some *High Personages* in this country, who are objects of national veneration, are so intimately connected.

"As the work itself contains nothing of either

politics or *party*, it may be proper to observe, at this time, that no allusions are meant to be drawn from it that can, in the smallest degree, relate to occurrences of the *present day**.

"The manuscript itself is evidently of some antiquity; and the translation (as far as the abilities of the editor could enable her) a faithful copy of the work, without allusion or comment of any kind. It may, perhaps, not be considered as superfluous to make these observations at a time when the public mind is strongly agitated with concerns of a *high domestic nature*†.

"It may be objected, that there is some matter blended with the work, which does not seem immediately blended with it; but, in answer to such objections, the editor has only to apologize, that she conceived it would destroy the effect of the whole, to separate or abandon any part of it; and, therefore, gives it to the world in the exact *form* of the original, trusting to the candour of the reader for any indulgence it may stand in need of."

Such is the preface: and although it may appear rather uncourteous to doubt a lady's word,

* This pains to deny or avert such an *intention* is no infallible proof of not entertaining it.

† The separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

yet the resemblance is so strong, a person might be pardoned who had read HOME TRUTHS, for asserting that anonymous production to be the *parent* of the *Princess of Zell.* At the same time, the ability to fill up the *blanks* in the modern work, and the dedication to a Princess so likely to know the true origin of the work, and afford much curious information, are circumstances favourable to the fair lady in question.

A *third* work, relative to the Princess Sophia Dorothea, consort to George the First, and the common ancestor of the whole existing royal family of Great Britain, was put into my hands in Sweden, in the summer of 1808, at Stockholm. This was entitled in German, "*Ein alter Hoffmeister an einim jonger Kron Prinsen,*" "*An old Courtier to a young Prince.*" This work purported to have been written by a person of the above rank and description, and to have been addressed, as a *posthumous* work, to Frederick Prince of Wales, father of George the Third, and grandfather of George the Fourth, and to have been printed at Erlangen shortly after the death of that greatly beloved and popular Prince.

The gentleman who showed that work to me, was Brigadier General Sir Levett Hanson, Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Joachim, and ex-chamberlain to the last reign-

ing Duke of Modena. Sir Levett procured it at Erlangen, and considered it as a very great curiosity, it being the only copy he had ever seen or heard of; and he said the oldest courtiers, and the old Professors of the University of Erlangen, gave credit to the contents as being substantially historical facts. The translation was the work of that eminently fine classical scholar, the Knight of St. Joachim just named, or his secretary, Mr. Rehl, from whose MSS. I transcribed the copy, a part of which has been unfortunately lost; the residue I now submit to the British public; not at all anxious to conceal any discrepancy, nor attach more credit to its extraordinary contents than intrinsically it may be found to deserve.

This scarce and curious work, small as it was, appeared to have been published *in parts*, which is the custom in Germany, and perhaps in all despotical governments, with prohibited books, by which mode of publication the loss, in case of confiscation, is less considerable, and the chances of detection fewer.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Some few of the facts stated in the ensuing pages are to be found in the Memoirs of Brandenburg, written by Frederick the Great; but they had been printed some years previous to the appearance of that celebrated work. The bold accusations levelled at the character of the Princess Sophia of Hanover, as respects her political intrigues, are fully corroborated by Bishop Burnet and other contemporary authorities, which state that the Stadtholder made use of the Duchess of Hanover, to induce her husband Ernest Augustus to withdraw from his military engagements with Louis the Fourteenth. The bribe held forth to tempt his cupidity was the succession to the English crown; and no less than this was offered whilst James the Second sat on the promised throne; our native histories afford some corroboration to the imputations, serious as they are, and so corrupt and profligate were the morals and manners of the courtiers, that the Archbishop of Canterbury found it necessary to write to the Electress Sophia a letter of admonition, requiring her to purge her court of several individuals whose manners and morals were alike profligately wicked. This authority, as well as the memoirs of *Ker* of *Kersland,* who had been *one*

of the Princess Sophia's *confidential spies*, fully corroborates the evil repute of the court of Hanover at the period in question. The insinuation, that the Princess Sophia helped to sacrifice the Duke of Monmouth, would appear quite absurd, were it not that the German author has also asserted, that Charles the Second was privately married to his mother, Lucy Walters.

The Mr. Hyde mentioned in the narrative, was the celebrated and intriguing lawyer, Lawrence Hyde, who afterwards became Lord Chancellor of England, and whose daughter married the Duke of York. This Lord Clarendon had been dead nearly fifty years, at the time when this MS. appears to have been written; consequently the writer must have been at a very advanced age.

Its most extraordinary feature certainly is the account given of the secret poisoning of the young Duke of Gloucester,—the price paid for the perpetration of that foul crime, and the name of the asserted murderer. On these delicate and important topics, I have no decided opinion to express, farther than the admission, that the more serious is the imputation, the more cautious a reader ought to be in giving it credit: and this feeling renders it more particularly my duty, candidly and impartially to put my readers in possession of all the means of forming a cor-

rect opinion in my power to impart. Those who are acquainted with the shackled state of literature, in countries where the press is subjected to a censor, know that it is an almost universal custom to print dubious or forbidden tracts, in separate sheets, or in very small portions, in order, if the edition should be seized, that the loss should not be heavy. This appears to have been the plan pursued with the German work in question, which was printed in parts, with perhaps a fictious name attached. It appeared soon after the death of the Prince to whom it was addressed, and although said to have been written by a very old man, the terms of admiration in which he speaks of the open, generous, and candid disposition of Prince Frederick, are perhaps too warm and glowing to agree with the coldness of old age. The author has not indeed accused King William, or the Princess Sophia of Hanover, of having suborned the medical person denounced as a secret poisoner, and the hired murderer of the presumptive heir to the throne of England; but the inferences point that way; and his meaning scarcely admits any other construction, than that one or both those persons were secretly concerned in the imputed crime.

The very small dimensions of a pair of boots, preserved in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, which that young Prince is said to have worn

just before his death, prove that in the eleventh year of his age he had not attained the stature or size of limbs of a robust child of only half his age. He was the only survivor of many children borne by Queen Anne; which extraordinary mortality in her offspring, without the aid of any criminal agency, is fully competent to account for his premature death by a natural cause.

It might be supposed, that the German work had been written by some friend to the Stuarts, and intended to defame and vilify the house of Brunswick, if the author had not so strenuously recommended the Prince of Wales to widen the basis of the people's liberty, and aim at sustaining the throne, if it should ever fall to his lot, by securing the love and confidence of his subjects. The author has no where introduced a sentence in favour of *divine right* or *passive obedience*, which, if he had been a Jacobite, would probably have been found profusely sprinkled throughout his pages: and if he had stood in secret connexion with the Stuarts, and wished to have effected the ruin of the young Prince, to whom he appears to have been a preceptor, he would probably have given him advice of an opposite tendency, and instilled *legitimacy*.

The *old courtier*, in his advice to Frederick Prince of Wales, has asserted, that the *greatest* cause of offence given to the Princess Sophia,

his first cousin, by James the Second, was his marriage with the daughter of Mr. Hyde, afterwards Earl of Clarendon. His second marriage, in 1672, was with the young, beautiful, and *reluctant* Princess Mary of Este*, daughter of the Duke

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* "This Princess Mary of Este, appeared at this time to be about fourteen years of age; she was tall, and admirably shaped; her complexion was of the last fairness; her hair as black as jet; so were her eye-brows and her eyes; but the latter full of light and sweetness, that they did dazzle and charm too; there seemed given to them from nature, sovereign power; and in the whole turn of her face, which was the most graceful that could be framed, there were all features, all beauty, and all that could be great and charming in any human creature. To Calais she came at last, in company of her mother, her uncle, and all who came with her out of Italy; embarked in the *Catherine Yacht;* whence, in a few hours, they arrived at Dover upon the sands: whereof the Duke, her husband, did attend her; and upon her landing she took possession of his heart as well as of his arms, and was conducted by him to her lodging, where, after she had reposed herself, he led his Duchess into the great room before his bedchamber, and there, in the presence of all his lords who attended him from London, and of all the country gentlemen who came to see him, and what the room could contain of the citizens of Dover, married again his wife, after the form of the church of England, by Dr. Nathanael Crew, at that time Bishop of Durham; after which, and they had supped together, they were put to bed, for the final consummation of this undertaking."—Vide Lord Peterborough's narrative of the Duke of York's second marriage.

and Duchess of Modena and the reigning Prince, whom Sir Levett Hanson, during many years, served as Chamberlain, was a descendant from the same family as the young and beautiful Princess just mentioned

Sir Levett Hanson repeatedly declared, that the Duke of Modena always accused Doctor R— of having poisoned the son and heir of Queen Anne, and he read various extracts from letters, and related a great variety of anecdotes, the tendency of which was to prove, that the Prince in question was murdered, to make way for the Electress Sophia and her descendants, he went further, and imputed the lethargic symptoms which preceded the death of Queen Anne to similar expedients When it was observed to the narrator, that the Princess Sophia could not, by possibility, have been concerned with the death of Queen Anne in reply he remarked, that all the dirty work of courts is done by *agency*, and the same instruments whom Sophia had employed, were equally well qualified to serve her successor, and that there was nothing more shocking to sensibility, nor revolting to humanity, in supposing either the son, the mother, or both, to have perished untimely and through treachery, than to believe that George the First had ever cherished the horrid and unnatural design of secretly trepanning his son and heir, and sending him to the

American Plantations *to be no more heard of.* These arguments were met by opposing the greater probability, admitting that the lives of the young Duke, or his mother, Queen Anne, had been shortened by poison, of the crime having proceeded from the enmity of the Jacobites, than from a family whose succession had been secured by acts of parliament; and whose government would have been rejected with horror by the whole nation, if it could have been proved, that such was their impatience to reign, they had had recourse to so foul a murder to accelerate its commencement.

Sir Levett, in his usual good-humoured manner, when he dissented from the opinion of a friend, or a guest (which was not frequent), shook his head, and smiling, said, that the veracity of Sir Horace Walpole was unimpeached and unimpeachable; that he (Sir Levett) had known him more than half a century, and well remembered, before he went to college, having heard him mention the same facts, and almost in the same words. He said, that all, or nearly all, the old courtiers of Anspach, Berlin, and Brunswick, with whom he had conversed, expressed opinions in unison with the contents of this posthumous work; and Sir Levett also affirmed, that Mr. Warren Hastings, the ex-Governor of India, had, in his conversations, as well as his letters, men-

tioned many local particulars relative to the state of the public mind at Queen Anne's death, and during the two succeeding reigns, which had convinced them that a majority of the *old* and opulent *English families* were decidedly adverse to the Hanoverian succession, from the ill-repute of the family, the misery of their poor vassals, and the corruption that every where prevailed in the Electorate; and that nothing prevented the restoration of the Stuarts but the *prejudices of the vulgar.*

"It was indeed a very happy prejudice, and it proved the salvation of the nation," I said to Sir Levett; "for so inveterate was the attachment of that dynasty to despotic rule, that if they had re-ascended the throne, and sworn ever so solemnly to rule constitutionally, they would have observed their engagement no longer than till they had felt their power competent to protect their violating its spirit, and re-establishing their beloved despotism." Sir Levett said, that nothing was more clear than the design of George the Second to rule despotically; and that he fully believed that Frederick the Great had said no more of that unamiable monarch, in imputing that design to him, than what was true. If Frederick Prince of Wales had lived, he thought that Prince would not have deceived the hopes

of the nation; but whilst Sir Levett admitted that as a probability, he insisted that the whole power and influence of the Crown, during the two first reigns of the House of Brunswick, had been quite as despotic, as far as *policy* was concerned, as the reigns of the Stuarts, and that the only difference lay in their process; the one acting with open daring on the mingled plea of divine and hereditary right, and the other by sap and mine,—by corrupting and debasing the genius of the nation, through the universal corruption disseminated by a bribed and pensioned House of Commons. I remarked to Sir Levett, that he had lived so long in Italy, under the protection of a Prince connected by blood with the House of Stuart, who was an hereditary enemy to the House of Hanover, that he seemed to have imbibed all their prejudices: at this imputation he was a little nettled, and he positively denied its justice. Adverting to the general dislike produced by the stiff and haughty manners of the first and second race of princes, he said, the great *landed interest* was rapidly ripening for a revolution, whilst Walpole was maturing his plan to render the Crown absolute; and that if the rebellion of 1745 had been delayed till after the death of Frederick Prince of Wales, it probably might have succeeded. Sir Levett Hanson

then instanced the politics of the Jenkinsons*, whom he asserted had been numbered amongst the staunchest adherents of the Stuarts, during the reigns of Anne, and the two first Georges; and whose representative, without any reservation, he quoted as being as inveterate a tory as any of his family; at the same time he spoke of his personal character with the utmost respect.

The most interesting feature of this small work is the "Journal of the Princess Dorothea," which was found, or pretended to have been found, concealed in a piece of furniture which stood in her apartment in the castle where she was first confined. To assert it is a genuine document might be unfair. Sir Levett Hanson, as I have stated, declared it was accredited amongst the old nobility of Erlangen, but they were not the best of all possible judges. It is very imperfect; it ends and begins abruptly, and does not contain the name of any witness adduced against the Princess, nor any satisfactory statement as to the supposed process of divorce.

* *Ancestors of the Earl of Liverpool.*

PART II.

AN OLD COURTIER

TO A

YOUNG PRINCE!

A TRANSLATION FROM THE GERMAN*.

"In whatever hour this MS. may reach your hand, my Prince, his, by whom it was written, will be cold and inanimate. I do not ask you to bestow a tear on hearing of my death; neither do I wish you to erect even the smallest memorial to tell posterity that I have lived. All I entreat of you is, in the midst of the giddy career of youthful passions, sometimes to steal an hour from dissipation, devote it to sober meditation, and calmly reflect on the important truths I am about to unfold. I shall first display the leading features of those political in-

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* In German, *Ein alter Hoffmeister, an einem jonger Kron Prinsen.*

trigues, wherein I have often been consulted and employed, by which the fortunes of the House of Brunswick have been so greatly improved May their effect be to convince your Highness, that the only mode to hold securely that glorious prize, thus obtained, the English Crown, is, by acting on the principles directly opposite to those which led to the banishment of the late King (James), and all his race I shall trace to their source those deplorable occurrences which blasted your paternal grandmother in the flower of her days, and consigned her to a prison-house, that filled the court of Hanover with vile and worthless parasites, base minions, and lewd and wasteful women, by which vices the prospect of succession to the throne of England was so nearly lost You have now attained an age that renders these communications less improper, than when you first so eagerly importuned me It is for your future guidance, rather than your present amusement, or the gratification of a prurient curiosity, that I comply To be useful, I must be sincere Be you, my Prince, attentive and discreet

"In my sixteenth year I was placed as a favourite page and amanuensis with your maternal grandmother, the Electress Sophia, then the Duchess of Brünswick It was your fate, my

Prince, to have known that wonderful woman only in her dotage, when time had stripped her features of every vestige of beauty, when her intellectual powers bore the stamp of decay, and her manners had lost that polish and elegance which once commanded the homage of all Europe. It was mine to witness the meridian splendour of her talents, and to have contemplated that secret misery which, mistress as she was of the art of dissimulation, and able to conceal or to control her passions and inclinations, she had not address to hide from my observation.

"That lady was nursed in the school of adversity. To you, I need not recapitulate the misfortunes which overwhelmed her royal parents. Her maternal grandmother, Mary Queen of Scotland, perished untimely by the axe. She (Sophia) was yet in the bloom of youth, when her cousin Charles the First died by the hand of an executioner. She acted generously towards his sons, the princes Charles and James, during their exile; assisting them with money and credit to the very utmost of her power; and she contributed, by her able advice and correspondence in England and Scotland, very materially towards effecting the restoration. She was admirably calculated to govern a nation, or adorn a court; but Brunswick was too small a theatre for so great an actress. The elegance of

her manners, the depth of her learning, her wisdom, eloquence, and ready wit, her resolution under adversity, and her unconquerable vivacity, procured her the appellation of '*the* '*merry debonair*;' and, chiefly through her credit and influence, her husband Ernest-Augustus was called the gentleman of Germany.

"She was mistress of seven languages. I have in a single day copied letters written by that Princess in Latin, English, Italian, French, German, and Dutch. She wrote equally fluently and grammatically in each language. Whilst this Princess excited my amazement by the display of her various talents, she lost my confidence, respect, and esteem; for her want of sincerity and candour was no less conspicuous than her talents were brilliant.

"The cause of the Electress Sophia's taking up so inveterate a dislike to James King of England, existed in his, and his brother Charles, having broken all their pecuniary engagements made in the hour of adversity, for which that Princess had been collateral security. For their relief she had generously pledged some family jewels, which had belonged to her great grandmother, Mary Queen of France and Scotland. These were suffered to be forfeited; and when Charles the Second was restored, he had neither the

gratitude nor honesty to indemnify her for these losses, nor scarcely to thank her for past kindnesses.

"I have frequently copied her letters addressed to James the Second, to the young Duke of Monmouth, and to William Prince of Orange, professing the warmest respect for each, whilst she was equally false to all, and betraying their plots to each other.

"The Princess had no inconsiderable share in effecting the destruction of the unhappy Duke. Next, in conjunction with the Prince of Orange, she stimulated King James to those acts of despotism which were intended and expected to lead to his dethronement; and too well were they calculated to produce that end. The great cause of her uncommon attention and devotion to the Prince of Orange, was her ardent wish to raise the dukedom of Hanover to the rank of an electorate.

"The greatest cause of the Princess Sophia's dislike to James the Second and his children, was his marriage with the daughter of Mr. Hyde, who was afterwards created Lord Clarendon, and whose mother was a *tub carrier* to a London brewer. I knew that gentleman well; and a keen politician he was. The Electress, though all condescension to her inferiors, was sufficiently

haughty to her equals. Proud of the mingled stream of imperial and royal blood* which flowed in her veins, her pride was outraged by a match so much below the rank and birth of the Duke. She never countenanced the consort of George William, Duke of Zell, on account of the comparative obscurity of her family: and it was to that antipathy all the misery which befel her devoted daughter-in-law, Sophia Dorothea, might fairly be attributed.

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* Origin of the Stewarts' family.

"Banchao, a nobleman of Scotland, had a fair lady to his daughter, whom Mackbeth, the king, desires to have the use of. Banchao refuses, and Mackbeth murders him, and takes the lady by force

"Fleance, the son of Banchao, fearing the tyrant's cruelty, flyes into Wales, to Griffin ap Lhewellin, the Prince of Wales Lhewellin entertains him with all hospitable civility Fleance, to requite his courtesy, gets Lhewellin's daughter with child. Lhewellin murders Fleance, and Lhewellin's daughter is afterwards delivered of a son, named Walter This son proves a gallant man, and falling out with a noble person of Wales, that called him a bastard, Walter slew him, and for his safeguard fled into Scotland, where, in continuance of time, he gained so much reputation and favour, that he became steward of the whole revenue of that kingdome, of which office he and his posterity retained the sirname, and from whence all the kings and nobles in that nation of that name had their originall, here's a goodly foundation for you!"—Vide 'Catt may look at a King.'

"Alluding to the alliance extorted by Mr. Hyde, she said in my presence, 'The sons of 'King Charles have suffered more dishonour in 'regaining the throne of England, than their 'father by losing his life upon a scaffold.' The moment the Prince of Orange intrusted the Electress with his designs on the English throne, I have no doubt but she had made up her mind to second his efforts, with the view to secure the crown for herself, or her descendants. And as William was reputed to have had no passions, no tender attachment to any female, she rejoiced at the very great probability there was of his dying without issue.

"Whilst this great conspiracy was in process, and the result was yet uncertain, this Princess wrote the most affectionate letters to King James, and to his queen, and various other royal personages, reprobating, in the severest terms, the perfidious conduct of Churchill and his associates. When James the Second abdicated a throne he had dishonoured, and was too feeble to recover, and the powerful *whigs* seemed likely to sustain the throne, and to be supported by the nation, the Electress gradually relaxed, till she became apparently a violent whig!

"You may rely that the young Duke of Gloucester, the son of Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark, *was destroyed by poison,*

administered at the instigation of some enemy, who wished to cut off the adopted heir to a revolutionary throne Doctor R—— has been named to me as the person who was employed by a certain monarch to remove that obstacle to his views The sum of twenty thousand guineas was the price of that foul murder*. Such are the effects of ambition, and the perils which

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* Although not strictly analogous, there is a remote sort of corroborating evidence in *Weldon's* narrative of the crimes of the *Stuart race*, in his little work entitled, '*A Catt may look at a King*,' relative to the imputed murder of Prince HENRY, the eldest son of James the First i e " And here it is much to our purpose to insert how this favourite's carriage had highly offended Prince Henry, who understanding the loose kind of life this man lived, especially relating to her, distasts him, disrespects him, and forbears his company, and flattly falls out with him

" Sommerset complains to the King, shortly the Prince falls sick and dyes

" That he was poysoned has been a common fame ever since, but to snuff the candle, and make it burn clear, take the testimony of those famous physitians that dissected his body, and left it upon record under their hands

" The dissect on of the body of Prince Henry.

" 1. We found his liver paler than ordinary, in certain places somewhat wan, his gall without any choller in it, and distended with wind.

" 2. His spleen was in divers places more than ordinarily black.

" 3 His stomach was in no part offended.

" 4 His midriff was in divers places black

await on royalty. It must not however be forgotten, that the health of the child had always

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" 5. His lungs were very black, and in divers places spotted, and full of thin watery blood.

" 6. Lastly, the veines in the hinder part of his head were fuller than ordinary, but the ventricles and hollowness of the brain were full of clear water.

" In witness whereof, with our hands, we have subscribed, this present relation, Nov. 7, 1612.

MAYERN,	PALMER,
ATKINS,	GIFFORD,
HAMMOND,	BUTLER.

" This Prince was *an active man, and full of high thoughts, a lover of this nation, and lookt upon by them with much* affection and expectation; what fears and jealousyes Somerset might maliciously infuse into the king's too fearfull and timorous soule, we cannot tell: but that language from Somerset to the lieutenant of the Tower, when he told him he must provide himself to go the next morning to Westminster to his tryall, said he would not, that the king had assured him he should not come to any tryall; this language, I say, stinks abominably, and when he did come to his tryall, fearing (being enraged), that he might fly out into some strange discovery, there were two men placed on each side of him, with cloaks on their arms, with peremptory command, that if Somerset did any way fly out against the king, they should instantly hoodwink him with their cloaks, take him violently from the bar, and carry him away, and this could be no man's act but the king's. He would often boast of his *kingcraft;* but, if his fears, and Somerset's malice, took this Prince's life away, 'twas a sweet piece of kingcraft indeed; but the fruit of it has been bitter."—Vide Weldon's 'Catt may look at a King,'

been extremely delicate, and his limbs were uncommonly small for a boy of his age

"I asked Brandershagen once, what he thought of the *opportune* death of the Prince; and if he, who had made so *many* journeys to London to inquire after the health of Queen Anne, had had any hand in producing that event? The next time I saw the Princess, I was rebuked in a way I have never forgotten. By whose *orders* the Prince was poisoned, I know not, but that the fact was so, I am as perfectly convinced, as I am of the child's death

"I assure you, from personal knowledge, that the same head which devised and prompted the rash and desperate enterprise in which the young Duke of Monmouth ignominiously perished, began that intrigue with Churchill, and others of James the Second's treacherous counsellors and servants, which led to the expulsion of the bigoted king, and the rejection of his children

"To produce this extraordinary event, my Prince, many odious crimes were planned and perpetrated, which would have covered the conspirators and perpetrators with ruin and infamy, had the invasion failed. Your great-grandfather and great-grandmother, never, in their private conversation, called the great political change of 1688 by any other name than that of a conquest. Frederick the First, his queen, and my honoured

mistress Sophia Charlotte, also gave it that appellation. The Jew banker, *Schwartzeau*, of Amsterdam, advanced four hundred thousand ducats to enable Prince William to execute the projected invasion of England. The Electress was enraged when she heard of the conditions which the *whigs* had imposed upon the stadtholder. She afterwards said, in my hearing, to King William, 'What! were the rascals not 'contented that your Majesty saved their 'necks? Did the traitors dare to make any 'stipulation?'—'It would have been bad policy in 'me, Madam,' replied the King, 'not to have 'left them a retreat. They began to talk of 'prescribing the conduct of the crown in many 'essential prerogatives, of abrogating the power 'of declaring war or making peace, of calling 'annual parliaments, and enacting other democratic laws. I cut the matter short, by telling 'them, that rather than wear the crown on such 'conditions, I would give up the contest, and 'leave them to establish whatever form of government they pleased.' This fact accounts for the apparent want of wisdom in the leading characters who had helped William to overturn the throne of James. The republicans were equally disgusted and disappointed. The temporizing whigs were accused by the tories of having accepted worse terms of a foreign usurper,

n they might have obtained from their native narch; and by the democrats they were reoached for having wrested the sceptre from a ative bigot, to place it in the hands of a foreign espot. During the life of Queen Anne, the overnment of England was an oligarchy, exercised under the mask of monarchy. She had no will of her own; if she had possessed the sovereignty, she as certainly would have restored it to her father or her brother, if they would have renounced popery. The Electress Sophia was always of this opinion, and her eagerness to prevent that occurrence, led her to sound King William respecting excluding Lady Anne and her offspring; at the same time, her eagerness to grasp the English sceptre, unquestionably had a great influence on her conduct.

"I passed the sea more than *fifty times*, for no other purpose than to glean from the attendants, and also from the medical gentlemen attached to the Princess Anne, afterwards Queen, all the intelligence I could obtain relative to the health of her son, the Duke of Gloucester, and latterly of the Queen herself. The instructions given to me by my mistress were marked by al the minuteness of medical inquiries. Nothing es caped her diligent search after bodily infirmiti or incipient malady or disease. The service w truly irksome to me. I was laughed at in t

palace, and so *greatly* mortified, *that* I should have resigned my place, rather than have endured the mortifications I encountered, if Dr. B——h——n had not kindly undertaken that unpleasant duty.

"In our coarse and sensual court at Hanover, King William was the standing jest of all the ladies, not excepting the Electress. Her Highness used often to say, that the Princess Mary had married without obtaining a husband. Before there was any prospect of those great events which afterwards ensued, the Princess Sophia used to say, in a jocular tone, that except the lady should play false, there would be no fruit from that union*. I am proceeding, I know, desultorily with my narrative; I must, however,

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* King William had mistresses to whom he gave that which had cost him nothing, i. e. the landed estates of the Crown. Walpole, in his Reminiscences, Chapter IX. thus introduces King William and one of his supposed concubines. "Lady Dorchester is well known for her wit, and for saying, that she wondered for what James chose his mistresses: 'We are none 'of us handsome,' said she, 'and if we have wit, he has not 'enough to find it out.' But I do not know whether it is as public, that her style was gross and shameless. Meeting the Duchess of Portsmouth and Lady Orkney, *the favourite of King William*, at the drawing room of George the First, 'God!' said she, 'who would have thought that we three 'whores should have met here?' Having, after the King's ab-

tch recollections as they arise When King William died, I remember her asking Doctor B—h—n, who was present when the royal corpse was opened, if the deceased Prince did not labour under some secret infirmity? who instantly answered in the affirmative I ought before this to have remarked, that the aversion of King William to the Princess Anne, arose from her having, some time before the death of Monmouth, ventured to communicate to her father her opinion of the treacherous part the Prince of Orange was acting against him She accused him of having first tempted the young man, by his secret agents, into a premature rebellion, and next of having basely betrayed him to the King These affronts William never forgave, and if he could, he willingly *would* have excluded the Princess Anne, and nominated the Princess Sophia and her descendants, as successors to the English throne, on his assuming the British sceptre

"The Princess Sophia impoverished her hus

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d cation, married Sir David Collyer by whom she had t
sons she said to them If any body should call you son
'a whore you must bear it, for you are so but if they
'you bastards fight till you die, for you are an honest m
'sons'"—Vide *Walpole's Reminiscences*

band, and drained the Duchy, to find money to pay her emissaries, and to buy partisans in England. Immense were the sums she thus raised and dissipated. She had instruments of all sorts, male and female; ecclesiastics, lawyers, soldiers, tradesmen, poets, authors, nobles and menials.

Hanover was, for successive years, crowded with keen and mercenary projectors and adventurers of all degrees and nations. By many she was plundered and deceived; but so inveterate had the habit become of employing and listening to spies, that she seemed to have no enjoyment when they were all absent, even though on duty. Some of those characters were possessed of great talents, and acted apparently from better feelings; but far the greater portion were the veriest miscreants in nature. One day, when she gave a purse full of gold to an emissary who lay under the imputation of being also an assassin, the Duke said to her, 'I really won-'der, my dear Sophia, you are not afraid to trust 'yourself in the reach of such devils as you em-'ploy.'—'So I should,' she replied, 'if I thought 'they could gain more by murdering than by 'serving me; but you have often found, that in-'terest binds a knave as strong as honour holds 'the gentleman.' She cherished a bad opinion of mankind in general; and often declared, that

here never lived a public man in any country who might not be corrupted, if his leading passion was once discovered.

"The murder of Count Konigsmark; the cruel imprisonment of the young and beautiful wife of the Electoral Prince; the coarseness of manners and laxity of morals, which distinguished the present King in his early life, and the base profligacy of his ministers, his mistresses, and his minions, converted Hanover into an open mart for the sale of places* and titles in England, long previous to the death of Queen Anne and I am confident, if the same abuses had existed prior to the death of King William, and if the character of the Court of Hanover had been thoroughly understood, it would not have been possible to have carried the Act of Settlement in favour of the Princess Sophia into effect

"This Princess appeared to me to plunge int political intrigues to drown painful reflectio

* It was much talked of, that Sir Robert, detecting on the Hanoverian ministers in some trick or falsehood befor King's face, had the firmness to say to the German, "Me impudentissime!" The good humoured Monarch only lau as he often did, when Sir Robert complained to him Hanoverians selling places, nor would be persuaded tha not the practice of the English Court, and which an must have planted in his mind with no favourable im of English disinterestedness —Vide Reminiscences, I

and to lose sight of her husband's irregularities, who was so gross in his amours, that he made his wife acquainted with his love adventures. One day when the Electress knew the Elector was engaged in a private conversation with Madame de Plaaten, the husband, the Elector's chief minister, entered the room, and asked me where the Elector was. Before I could reply, the Electress said, 'His Highness is in company 'with *your wife;* and as you dare not go home 'whilst he remains there, you may as well both 'sit down and bear me company.' She cherished the most radical hatred against the husband and the wife; but, being aware of their influence, suppressed all shew of resentment as far as in her power. On the other hand, the Elector, void of all delicacy of feeling, or dignity of manners, pleased with being left to pursue his pleasures uninterrupted by reproaches or complaints, permitted his consort to act as she pleased in state matters, and was almost implicitly ruled by her opinions. Such was the state of the court when your royal father was born.

"I have already stated, that if it had not been for the dread of throwing the crown of England back to its hereditary claimants, the accession of Queen Anne could have been disputed, and perhaps prevented. The Stuart party were so greatly pleased with the death of William, caused

, it was by an accidental fall from his horse (which they construed as an act of justice inflicted by the hand of Providence), that they secretly hoped the new Queen, who possessed much greater sensibility of heart than her deceased sister, would spontaneously give up a sceptre, which they calculated she wanted resolution to wield. The Princess Sophia was with difficulty restrained from making an attempt to oppose Queen Anne's accession. Had she persevered she would for ever have cut off the hopes and prospects of herself and son. The reign of that mild, passive, good-natured Princess, was almost incessantly disturbed by machinations set on foot by the Hanoverian and the papal factions.

"As your father attained to man's estate, that dislike which grew with his strength against *his* father burnt unquenchably fierce: nor was it to be wondered at, since he never had experienced any portion of a father's love. He, therefore, naturally enough, attached himself to the Prin cess Sophia, who stood before the father a heiress to the British crown. As old age in creased her infirmities, the eagerness to reig grew more and more strong; at the same tim the danger of losing the succession, by the gro ing inclination of Queen Anne to restore expatriated family, became also more evid Unknown to her son, the Princess Sophia n

gated the Electoral Prince, your father, to demand permission from Queen Anne for him to take his seat in the House of Lords, as Duke of Cambridge. This imprudent measure, which was construed by the Tories as the commencement of a plot to dethrone the Queen, gave rise to so much additional dislike to the House of Brunswick, that Anne consented that Lord B—— should go to Paris to inform her brother it was her fixed desire to cut off the Hanoverian succession. The overture was accordingly made; and the moderate Whigs were prepared to have supported the measure, if the hereditary claimant of the crown would have openly renounced the Catholic religion, and had agreed to a Bill of Rights that was ready prepared, and more favourable to the popular cause than the bungling bargain made by those who had invited the Prince of Orange to land with a powerful army in the island. If the titular King had had sense to have acceded to those conditions, no earthly power could have kept him out; for the corrupt practices of the court of Hanover, and the envenomed rancour of domestic discord, had lowered the character and influence of the House of Brunswick. The Princess Sophia was become old and feeble; her son was any thing but popular; and just as she was, with inexpressible anxiety, looking out for the news of Queen

nne's death, her own dissolution put an end to er hopes and to her intrigues

"Owing to the weak intellects of the titular King of England, and the strength of his religious prejudices, all the hopes of his partisans failed of preventing the peaceable accession of your grandfather, who carried over with him to England his ministers, his minions, and his mistresses, and London witnessed the same nefarious traffic in places and titles which had created so much odium and disgust in Hanover

"That great statesman and philosopher Leibnitz foresaw the danger which menaced the Hanoverian King. He was at Vienna when the death of Queen Anne was announced. His regard for your grandsire was sincere and disinterested. He dared to tell him those truths which scarcely any other tongue durst utter. He wrote a memorial, descriptive of the genius of the English nation, and the best means of preserving the throne, in the course of which he advised the King *to restore your ill-fate grandmother to her rank*, and to dismiss near all his old courtiers and mistresses, to treat h son, your father, with more affection, and str to gain the affection of his subjects, by extend and confirming their liberties, and endea to secure his throne, by rendering it the int of the nation to support his claims This

dom lost the honest Leibnitz the favour of the King. He lingered two years, neglected and forgotten. When that great man died* he was interred with as little ceremony as if he had been one of the King's menials. Such, my Prince, was the reward which his zeal and loyalty received.

"The rebellion that broke out almost immediately after your grandfather's ascending the throne of England, shows how wide the ramifications of foes had spread, and how well-founded had been the confidence of the partisans of the Stuarts. Rest assured, my Prince, the danger is not over. Your father may act as a wise and just king, but he will never become a popular monarch. Even now, whilst I write, I feel convinced, that new combinations are on foot to wrest the sceptre from your house. Removed, as you stand, from political power, it is not in your power to effect any favourable change in the politics of the crown. But still, the eyes of all Europe are fixed upon you. Beware, then, of corrupt flatterers; keep a strict guard on your conduct in Hanover. Above all things, beware of mingling yourself with either of the two Bri-

* Hodgskins, in his recent Travels, mentions that a plain handsome marble monument has, a few years since, been erected to the memory of that great philosopher.

tish factions You possess great personal advantages,—are young, generous, open-hearted, and candid Study, from the best models, the language, laws, and manners, of your future subjects, remember the fate of James! shun all despotic acts and councils, and keep true to constitutional principles Depend upon it, that there is no throne so truly safe as that which is founded on freedom, and supported by the people's love If I know you at all, you are in your heart and soul friendly to the freedom of mankind Persevere in those principles, and if, in due season, you should, as I hope you will, ascend the British throne, you will become the greatest Monarch in the world, and will have nothing to fear from a rival so much your inferior in every great and social quality If, unhappily, you should never attain that envied station, you will be a great Prince, and the Hanoverians under your genial sway will become free and happy.

"Having thus, as well as in my power, thrown together some well-remembered facts, which may be useful to you, I have next the painful task of discharging the rest of my promise, and relating the origin of your unhappy grandmother's misfortune, and the extent of her sufferings

"The origin of her ruin was the aversion of your royal grandfather to marriage a libertine

and a sensualist, he had no relish for conjugal bonds. The sole object of the Electress was to secure for her son the inheritance of the duchy of Celle. The young and beautiful Princess was looked on with indifference by the Hanoverian court, where she was scarcely arrived before she found herself slighted by her husband, insulted by his mistresses, and plotted against by his courtiers and dependents."

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The MS. ceases at this place, and resumes the subject with the alleged journal of the captive Princess.

PART III.

TRANSLATION

OF THE

PRINCESS SOPHIA DOROTHEA'S JOURNAL.

SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN THE CASTLE ON THE AHLER

"On the fatal day when Count Konigsmark was murdered, I was made a prisoner of state, a guard was stationed at my chamber-door, and the infamous women, Von Plaaten and Meissenbourg, obtruded their hateful presence to enjoy the spectacle of my ruin, and mock the misery they had caused. Just after the bloody deed was finished, the Elector, pale and agitated, entered to announce the murder, and my speedy removal 'The sooner 'the better,' said I 'Send me where you may, 'you cannot fix upon a residence so infamous as 'your palace, or so loathsome to me.' I had pride and fortitude to repel the Elector, and confound the vile wretches, the concubines of a father and son, and half the court besides I did

not fear death, it would have been welcome; but, *my children**! There, indeed, I felt what none but a mother's heart can conceive,—what no pen can describe,— which no bodily torture could equal! As I leaned over the innocents, the cruel fiends laughed at me, and said, '*See! how she* '*mourns the death of their father!*' 'Wretches!' said I, 'their father lives; and the God that 'knows my innocence will avenge our wrongs!' I scarcely shed a tear; I saw nor thought of any one but my infants,—from them I was to be torn, to leave them in the power of wolves and tigers! I humbled my soul before God, and, kneeling by my children, I exclaimed aloud, 'If I am, like

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* The Electoral Prince, George Lewis, afterwards George the First of England, was married to this lovely and ill-fated Princess, 1682.

George Augustus, afterwards George the Second, was born at Hanover, 30th October, 1683.

Sophia Dorothea, their daughter, was born March 16th, 1687; and, in 1706, was married to Frederick William the First, King of Prussia. The Elector, Ernest Augustus, his father, died in 1698. And these tragical events took place some years prior to his death. The dates are wanting in all the authorities quoted, as respects the death of Konigsmark, the duration of the captivity of the Electoral Princess, and the period of her death; except that George the First did not outlive her a year, and he died in 1727. By the preceding Translation, it would appear that the children were mere infants; but that evidently could not be the case.

'these vile women who mock me, lewd and an 'adultress, then shower every curse upon me, 'expose my guilt to the world, and deal with me 'as I deserve! I am innocent of the crimes im-'puted to me, and I pray thee, Father of the 'wretched, the Shield of the weak, preserve my 'children in this den of lewdness, remove them 'from sin and pollution, and in good time make 'my innocence as manifest as my sufferings!" Of what passed till I was muffled in a large mantle, and borne away to prison, I know not Bothman sat in the carriage with a drawn sword the wooden blinds were up, but I perceived the blaze of flambeaux, and heard the trampling of many horses Whether I was doomed to death, to be tortured, or cast into a dungeon, was uncertain I was torn away from my infants, whom I left in the power of the most vile and abandoned of womankind, and fortune had done its worst

" My destined prison is the castle on the Ahler Strom (river), a savage looking edifice, where, according to tradition, many a foul murder has been perpetrated, and many a hapless victim groaned out a life of misery in its dungeons The ruffian who escorted me had the cruelty to say, 'You will not be much alone at nights, 'Madam, for the apartments are all believed to 'be haunted' 'Not with worse fiends than

'thee and thy associates, for hell itself contains 'none more wicked!' '*Long Piet**, who gave 'your paramour his finishing blow, is to be your 'keeper, and his wife your attendant.' 'There 'is yet a more detestable pair of miscreants, 'whom the Elector might have chosen, Count 'Plaaten and his meretricious wife!' The villain, finding he could not subdue my courage, and, perhaps, stung by my retorts, held his tongue.

"When the carriage arrived at the lonely castle, Bothman alighted, and I quickly followed, without a page or a lady to assist. As he delivered a warrant to the hideous-looking couple, Long Piet and his wife, Bothman turned towards me, and said, with the grin of a fiend, 'Madam, I leave you in their custody, and congratulate you on the clemency of your injured 'family.' I deigned not a reply, but said in a resolute tone, 'Conduct me to my prison!' They obeyed, left a glimmering lamp, and instantly retired, making fast the door outside.

"The room seemed large, and felt damp and

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* There certainly was a governor, and perhaps a small military guard, placed in this castle when it was appointed as the prison-house of this ill-fated Princess. As to the ruffian, Long Piet (Tall Peter), and his wife, those vulgar wretches were merely the personal attendants of the unhappy captive.

cold, the bed and furniture were of the meanest kind, but of those petty matters I had then no time to think. My dear children and their perilous state occupied all my thought. I had nothing else to fear but what might befal them I had no tear to shed to ameliorate the intensity of grief I bent my knee to implore Heaven's blessing on their heads A ray of hope seemed to descend as from Heaven upon my desolate bosom, and committing myself wholly to the all-powerful Being, from whom my only solace came, I threw myself upon the bed The lamp cast a light so lurid, it was more gloomy than complete darkness I was the most wretched of mothers, and it is said, 'that sleep flies the 'wretched,' yet, wearied nature sought repose, but my troubled mind lost not its consciousness My slumbers were broken, and horrid visions seemed floating around me I thought the unhappy Count, wounded and dying, stood before me, reeking in his own blood He looked upon me with the strongest expression of pity and respect 'O most dearly beloved, and most injured of women, forgive thy thoughtless destroyer! Thou art the victim of my vanity 'and folly I have suffered the penalty of my 'crimes, and come to ask thy pity and forgiveness, and to say thy children shall live and 'vindicate thy innocence!' The shade then

vanished, and I awoke, yet trembling and in tears: straight again I slumbered, and thought I was in the electoral palace, and that the foul fiend, Meissenbourg, approached the bed-side of my children: she cast aside the curtains, and (sad sight of horror to a mother's heart!) seized, or seemed to have seized, their snowy necks in either hand, and to grasp their throats so hard, methought their lovely features grew black and distorted, and their precious eye-balls seemed bursting from their sockets. At first I could not scream, nor move, nor weep; my body seemed dead, but my soul was alive, and suffered tortures more exquisitely painful than human power could inflict on the corporeal frame. At last, the fetters of my voice and limbs were loosened. I thought I rushed upon the murderers to rescue my expiring babes. The loud shrieks I uttered resounded through the gloomy walls of my prison-room. Long Piet and his wife, the servile tools of the more infamous De Plaaten, opened the door, and found me on the floor, bleeding copiously at the mouth and nose. To this loss of blood, perhaps, my return to life and misery was owing. I found myself, on my recovery, seated, and leaning back in an armed chair; the male holding a lamp, and the female chafing my temples with vinegar. My pride recoiled at the sight of those wretches, and from

the touch of the polluted hand, which, feeble as I was, I could [illegible] parry. The blackest malice dwelt in their corrupted hearts, and played upon their hideous features. 'What ails your Highness?' said the woman, 'has the young *Swede* 'placed you in a state that renders the assistance 'of a midwife necessary? His *Excellency* has 'provided one in readiness.' To this ribaldry I made no other reply than *imploring them to* make short work of their appointed duty, and take my life at once. '*No, no, Madam!*' said Pien. 'his Serene Highness has not any such 'views. He has been assured he shall not live a 'year after your death; thence you will be kept 'alive. At his command I struck your lover, 'Madam: my battle-axe cleaved his head, my 'garments were sprinkled with his gore. The 'moment the Count saw he was surrounded, he 'called upon God to pardon him, *and protect* '*you*. He was a brave soldier, Madam, but 'his treason merited the death he suffered.' Such was the language of the vile woman; such was the horrid discourse I was forced to hear from those [illegible] When I had so far recovered as to walk back to my bed-side, I knelt and prayed to God to shorten my sufferings, and end my life. The last words of Konigsmark sunk deep into my mind: there appeared to me a strong coincidence *between*

the memorable words uttered by the vision I thought I had seen, and those reported by one of his assassins! Although my heart was bursting, I durst not ask a word about my infants*. Cold and unfeeling as is the Electress, she is a mother, and *sure*, thought I, she will not suffer my sweet babes to be murdered! Such were the thoughts which floated in my mind, till wearied nature, once more, sought repose in sleep: but that relief was again embittered by distressing and gloomy dreams. I thought Konigsmark was alive, and that we were together in France, and both my children with me. The Count appeared in high health and spirits, and clad as a bridegroom. Throwing himself at my feet, he asked my hand in marriage. Just as I was gently urging him to rise, and forbear his suit, I thought his gay apparel fell into pieces, his flesh turned rotten and fell off his bones, and yet he held my hand to draw me to him. Then my wandering mind pourtrayed the Ducal palace at

* The word '*infants*,' as applied in this passage, clearly appears to mean children of a very early age. But the German spoken in Hanover abounds with *diminutives*, as terms of affection, as, "dear *little* father; dear *little* mother," &c. A nobleman addressing his servant commonly, at the present day, says "*liebe karl*," that is, "*dear fellow*," as a preface to any order,—a mode of address which would be thought highly derogatory in this country.

Zell, and imagination mocked me with a recurrence of those days of cheerful content I enjoyed ere the fatal policy of the Electress demanded me in marriage for her eldest son. Thus passed the first night of my captivity.

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"I am*, and for ever am to be, debarred the use of pen, ink, paper, or books, and on pain of death no one is to communicate any thing to me, except with the privity of my cruel enemy. The ministers of religion are not to come into my presence, *but to* pray with me and give their *responses* outside my chamber door. I am never more to behold the rising or the setting sun; never to see my babes, never embrace them more; never behold the changes of the seasons, the flowers of spring, the ripe fruits and corn of summer, and the rich variety of autumnal tints; never more taste the luxury of the untainted breeze! Terrible is my doom! Oh God! be graciously pleased to vouchsafe thy compassion. Be thou a parent to my helpless children! Guard them, I beseech thee, from secret malice, and

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* This expression, at first glance, appears much like an *Irish bull*, for the unhappy Princess certainly must have obtained paper, pen, and ink, before she commenced her Journal. Perhaps it was not till the Princess had been some time confined, that she obtained those important articles.

from open crime. Make manifest my innocence. None but thee, my God, can convince them hereafter that they have no cause to blush to own their mother! Soften the heart of their cruel father, and open his eyes to the wickedness of his associates: then shall the bitterness of misery pass away from me, and I shall be supported by thy divine grace to endure, without repining, and strong enough to banish from my heart every other worldly hope, save that of meriting thy protecting hand for my dear babies!

"The second day, at twelve o'clock, arrived Baron Bernstorff, and two assistants. I was summoned to appear before him in an adjoining chamber, if I did not please to see him in my room. I was called the Princess Sophia Dorothea, of Zell; not by my proper name and title. 'Tell the ruffian,' said I to the assassin Piet, 'if he wants me, to come here.' The presence of the hated villain strung every nerve with new force. Armed as he was by lawless power, and master of my life and liberty, the caitiff looked embarrassed, and dared not lift his eyes to meet the indignant flashes which I felt shooting from mine. 'With or without your permission, 'Madam,' said Bernstorff, as he entered, 'I have 'to introduce these gentlemen of the law into 'your presence, and to demand of you, as a pri-

'soner of state, direct and distinct replies to such 'interrogations as I may feel it my duty to put 'to you by virtue of the authority of the Electoral 'Prince, and of his father, the Elector, my lord 'and master'

" *Princess Sophia* —My objection is not to the law of the land, but to corrupt and wicked administrators of the law. To villains such as thou art*!

" *Bernstorff* —I am commanded by the Electress, your august mother-in-law, to say, that if you choose to make a full and free confession, she will intercede with the Elector and Electoral Prince for the remission of your sentence of perpetual imprisonment, and prevail upon your father to receive you, or provide another and more suitable asylum for you.

" *Princess Sophia* —Tell the Electress those terms are not such that an innocent person can listen to

" *Bernstorff* —The Duke of Zell feels the most complete conviction of your guilt, as does also your mother, and both the Duke and Duchess

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* From this, and many other passages, a reader might suspect the dialogue was framed to answer passing events But there are plenty of persons who have seen this MS many years since It was intended to have been published in the *Northern Courts*, in 1818.

have instructed me to advise your immediate compliance.

"*Princess Sophia.*—Monster! you state untruths! My mother is virtuous! She cannot, does not, doubt my innocence; nor would my father, but for the hellish machinations of thee, and other miscreants placed round him by thy superiors to enslave and betray him.

"*Bernstorff.*—These letters, Madam, of your hand-writing, that are marked and sealed with the Elector's seal, were found upon the dead body of your lover, the late Count Konigsmark: here are two, Madam, in particular, in each of which you have plainly admitted that an adulterous intercourse existed between you and the deceased traitor.

"*Princess Sophia.*—With the exception of those two letters, all the rest are, indeed, of my writing; and to them I refer, as proofs of the virtuous principles by which, amidst the infamy of the most vicious court in Europe, I still maintained inviolate, every duty of a virtuous wife.

"*Bernstorff.*—It was upon the authority of those letters, Madam, that Count de Plaaten presumed to ask you, yesterday, if you were likely soon to stand in need of a midwife's assistance.

"*Princess Sophia.*—I well remember the audacity of that venal cornuto. Hear now my

reply,—'If you dare take so great a liberty,' said I, 'you might put that question to your 'wife; if you dare not, ask your privileged master 'to do so for me.'

"*Bernstorff.*—You are insolent, Madam; and means shall be adopted to humble your proud spirit.

"*Princess Sophia.*—Coward! I defy thy utmost malice. There is no rack so severe as a guilty conscience;—no executioner half as cruel as thou art! But God will avenge my wrongs, and his arm shall yet reach and crush thee!

"*Bernstorff.*—You have acknowledged those letters to be of your own hand-writing; in doing which you have confessed your guilt, since the letters themselves prove the fact.

"*Princess Sophia.*—Almighty God, look down upon me with the eye of pity! Frustrate, I beseech thee, the hellish malice of those who have conspired against my innocence. Bring their wicked plots to light, and vindicate my injured honour! I have acknowledged all those letters except two, *which are forgeries.* Each of those that are genuine attest the integrity of my conduct. You that caused the fabrication of the others, must of course produce suborned witnesses to confirm, by perjured oaths, the falsehoods they contain. The resemblance to my writing is very strong; but that God who

knows my innocence, can detect and punish the machinations of those who fabricated those documents.

"*Bernstorff.*—Nothing is more common, than for delinquents to deny the validity of every proof which goes to expose their guilt. (To the lawyers*.) Examine those two letters: compare them with the rest, which the prisoner has admitted to be of her writing, and give me a *conscientious* answer as to your real belief and opinion touching their authenticity.

"*1st Advocate,* (after a pause.)—We have examined them very deliberately and minutely: for myself I am ready to make oath, that I have often seen the prisoner write, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all those letters, and these two as well as the rest, are written by the prisoner's hand, and by no other person.

"*2d Advocate.*—Such is also my opinion and belief. I too have seen the prisoner write, and am ready to make oath to the same effect. The duty is most painful to me, but I must not shrink from it.

"*Bernstorff.*—What do you say to these damn-

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* The names were illegible in the MS. brought from Sweden.

ing proofs of guilt? Do you still dare to advance your false and audacious pretensions to innocence? Still set justice at defiance?

"*Princess Sophia.*—Do you not all of you tremble, lest the avenging hand of God should suddenly cut you off in the midst of these hellish machinations, perjuries, and subornations? Bind me on the rack,—crush the marrow from my *bones,—tear the quivering flesh living from my* bosom,—but, whilst the consciousness of innocence sustains me, I shall triumph! Never shall you extort any confession of guilt from my lips. You are all traitors to your Prince and to your country, and the Almighty in due time will give to each his due reward.

"*Bernstorff.*—You do *not deny* having *intended* to make your escape from the Court of Hanover? nor, that the late villain and traitor, Count Konigsmark, to whom these letters are addressed, was to have been your companion?

"*Princess Sophia.*—Undoubtedly I did intend to have fled from the tyranny and cruelty of my husband, and from the wrongs and insults heaped on me by his harlots and minions. He lived in a state of undisguised adultery. His morals, as you well know, have ever been, where women are concerned, of the most lax and dissolute description. He is rude and cruel; he has often treated me with brutal ferocity; and not alone

my health and peace of mind, but my life and my honour, were in continual danger. I had no longer a husband:—it was natural to wish to flee from infamy, misery, and oppression. The late Count Konigsmark knew more of the wretchedness I endured than any other gentleman, having been educated in my father's court; he felt those wrongs more warmly, and sympathized in my sorrows. Seeing nothing but infamy and venality in the Court of Hanover, he did not disapprove of my intended flight, to seek the humane protection of my dear mother's relations*. I felt towards him a sister's affection; I honoured the noble qualities of his heart†; I never cherished a sentiment towards him at which I need to blush: for the truth of these assertions I appeal to Heaven!

"*Bernstorff.*—If your feelings were so strongly interested as to lead you to desert your husband and your children, in company with that dissipated young Courtier, what rational being can believe your intended flight did not arise from

* This account makes no mention of Lewis the Fourteenth, or of his protection. Her mother's family were genteel and respectable, but not noble or opulent.

† He was an elegant, brave, generous, and highly accomplished soldier, but dissolute to an extreme degree; and his conduct in the assassination of Mr. Thynne, forms an eternal blot in his character.

shing a more secure enjoyment of his beloved ciety? hence the projected elopement, and those criminal confessions contained in those our letters now before me.

"*Princess Sophia.*—I am a Christian in principle, and religion is my last solace. Most miserable should I feel if I did not believe in a future existence, and the certainty of salvation through the mediation of our blessed Redeemer. Every ray of hope has quitted me, as far as this world is concerned: my sole trust and my comfort is in my religion, and I appeal once more to that God, who knows your wicked purposes, to attest my innocence. I am entirely in your power—dispose of me as you please; but tremble at the deep damnation into which, by these iniquitous practices, ye are sinking your immortal souls!

"*Bernstorff.*—You have almost committed treason. You have made indecently free with the character of the Elector and Electress: even your father has not escaped the lash of your satirical pen. You appear to have had no family secrets in your power, but you revealed them to his favoured paramour.

"*Princess Sophia.*—I was shocked and disgus ed at the scenes of vice by which I was su rounded. I lamented the ascendancy of su infamous female characters as reigned in the Co

of Hanover. I regretted, Sir, your fatal influence over my royal father's mind. I feel the same sentiments now; and were I at liberty, I would tell you the same in the presence of each of the parties to whom I have alluded in those unpremeditated, desultory, and confidential letters.

"*Bernstorff.*—Your confidant, the Baroness de Molckt, is likely to give a very different version. She has already impeached you, Madam; and if, by your obstinacy, you drive matters to extremities, I have no doubt but she will appear as a witness against you, and convict you.

"*Princess Sophia.*—Never! Never wilt thou see that day! I know the worth and sincerity of her heart, and the force of honour in her bosom. She is, indeed, the repository of all my secret thoughts, and she is welcome to reveal them all! Where no guilt existed, none can be revealed; and her's is a heart you will never degrade, however you may tear and lacerate her body!

"*Bernstorff.*—Amongst *your* papers, Madam, which we have seized, are many letters from Count Konigsmark, and amongst them this, (presenting one), wherein he plainly alludes to amorous dalliances and criminal intimacy, and expresses his impatience for the arrival of that

happy moment, when, far from the reach of the sordid tyrant, your lord, you might live for each other in a distant kingdom

"*Princess Sophia* —What new scheme is here displaying its hellish lineaments! Not only have you forged my hand-writing, and fabricated letters, purporting to be from me, and apparently addressed to the Count, but you have also forged others as from that murdered nobleman to me The farther you proceed, the clearer I perceive the boundless extent of your hellish malice, but still your power is limited, and that God whom you thus insolently dare to mock, will, sooner or later, visit your crimes with commensurate punishment My husband is an immoral man, God knows! but surely, not so radically depraved as to countenance these atrocities Miscreant! you deceive and mislead him! You know his marriage with me was founded on his side upon mercenary and sordid views, that his affections were, and had long been, pre-engaged, when I was most reluctantly dragged from my parents' arms You knew his indifference—aye, his *aversion* to me, and now, to promote your own vile ends, and obtain still greater honours and riches, you are fabricating all those false documents, and raising up suborned witnesses against me, to release him from those bonds which have never yet had power to restrain him!

"*Bernstorff.*—Your children! Madam!—have you *no thought for them?* If you proceed thus contumaciously, you will involve them in your ruin and disgrace. By this rude defiance of a power that can crush you in a moment, you are likely to incur the dreadful responsibility of leading to the bastardizing of your children, if no *worse fate befals them**!

"*Princess Sophia.*—My children! Oh, ye godless monsters! are my poor children too—to be destroyed! Perhaps they are already murdered. My brain burns—my heart is bursting. Say but that they live, and are well, and I will kneel and kiss your feet!

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* If it were not for the extraordinary, and apparently the well authenticated fact, that a plan was formed, several years after, and submitted to George the First in England, to seize *his son* and transport him to the colonies, the horrid menace implied in the words marked in italics would be incredible. It will be seen by the extracts from various works subjoined, that the Court of Hanover was profligate to an excessive degree; and its debaucheries in all likelihood of the most gross and disgusting kind; but still, this treatment of a mother, this torture of her soul by menacing the lives of her children, almost surpasses belief. Keysler's celebrated Travels in Germany and Italy were dedicated to this same minister, and that celebrated traveller was preceptor to his two sons or nephews. That he was an unprincipled man, there is plenty of evidence on record, both in England and Germany; but that he was so complete a monster as this Journal represents him, is, indeed, almost incredible.

"*Bernstorff*.—They *yet* live, and are well, Madam. Her Serene Highness the Electress deeply deplores your fall. It is *her* wish to save your children; but there may be statesmen who may feel it their duty, in consequence of your prior acquaintance with Konigsmark, to advise your husband not only to divorce you, but to set aside the succession of your son on the ground of bastardy.*

"*Princess Sophia.*—How may that calamity be prevented? By what possible sacrifice can I save the rights of my dear infants, whom I shall no more behold?

"*Bernstorff*.—By a full and fair confession of that guilt it is utterly useless, as well as most wicked, in you to deny.

"*Princess Sophia.*—Ye agents of Satan! ye ministers of hell! hear me!—Do you think so poorly of my penetration as to imagine I am to be deceived by your vile illusions? Could I ensure the safety of my babes† by submitting to

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* Many circumstances concur to prove that George the First ever cherished a marked aversion to his son and heir apparent.

† The word 'babes' is applied to her children twice in the course of two sentences; and in the third, they are called 'innocents;' but those terms should be construed as demonstrations of excessive affection, and intended to excite compassion in the bosom of Bernstorff.

any torture, to any *personal privation*, there is no suffering so severe that I would shrink from its endurance. If the gross, vindictive, groveling sensualist, under whose sanction you act, had another victim within reach to supply my place, and if he had children by her, then would the danger of my babes be much greater. But God is all-sufficient. To him I commit my innocents. In the vanities and follies incidental to my age, sex, and rank, I have too frequently indulged. I own I felt only aversion towards the man who obtained my person without caring for my love, and whose total want, not alone of delicacy, but of common decency, was such as excited in my young bosom the deepest disgust, even to loathing!—that man, whom I blush to name, so deep is his profligacy, wishes for a divorce. I too wish for the same act of justice. He is guilty of adultery: ever since his marriage he has lived in that state. Tell him, I will be the prosecuting party, and I *need not* intimidate nor suborn witnesses to prove his guilt. His judges are all obsequious; he is master of the law, and can divorce himself. But all his power, and all his diabolical machinations will fail, if he hopes to fix the odium of the crime on me, notwithstanding that Konigsmark was allured to my chamber, and cowardly murdered; notwithstanding his perjured witnesses, and fabricated

documents; yet he will fail. For though such whitewashed instruments as you and Von Plaaten, and corrupted judges, may pronounce me guilty, the voice of the liberal and just acquits me! The future historian will absolve me of guilt, because he will see, from the first moment of my unhappy marriage, how cruel has been his treatment, how profligate his life! Go, then, back to your master, and if he be indeed privy to your infernal project, give him to understand that I can still pity and despise him; that I disdain his mercy; defy his hatred and malice; and that, as well as destroy his wife, whom he could not deprave, if he will also devour his offspring, I must leave his punishment to that Being who knows my innocence, and sooner or later will make it apparent, by avenging all my wrongs on him who is their source and origin. Go, slave! and tell your lord and master this!

"*Bernstorff.*—Is this your final determination? Your father, Madam, only this morning, with tears in his eyes, acknowledged his conviction of your guilt; and he has commanded me to inform the Electoral Prince, your truly noble husband, that, as you have so entirely lost all sense of modesty and virtue, and have, by your licentiousness, entailed such deep disgrace on the Electoral dignity and family, that he no longer could consider you as his child, but has utterly

and for ever renounced you as one lost past redemption, and fit only for the stews and brothels. He has interdicted every person from naming you to him, on pain of arbitrary punishment. Your mother, Madam, whose national vices you so liberally inherit, could not utter a word in your behalf, but hung down her head, wrung her hands, and wept. You have, therefore, no countenance, no succour, no pity to look for in any quarter. Your Abigail, the Baroness de Molckt, stands on the point of becoming your accuser, or suffering a terrible death: those of your domestics, whom, by your profusion, were become your partisans, are removed far from the reach of your voice. You stand isolated and alone in the world. Your name is held infamous, and execrated, and yet you have the audacity to assert your innocence, and complain of oppression!

"*Princess*.—Were I a man, although chained to the earth, you are too great a coward to dare venture thus obscenely to insult me. Why are these men obtruded on my presence (the advocates) except to witness my misery, and mock me with the forms of justice, without its essence? You are as well able to make out criminatory confessions as to prepare forged letters, or dictate and prepare suborned testimony. You might have spared me this humiliation, but so

base is your nature, and so full of malice that vile heart of yours, that you can enjoy neither rest nor pleasure, whilst there remains room to plant an additional dagger in my soul. Base and corrupted as is your master, and my husband, I can readily conceive that he owes much of his vice and cruelty to your artifices and deceptions. You exasperate him by all sorts of fabricated proof of my guilt, and thus you instigate him to one crime after another, and the deeper he plunges into crime, the more aid he wants from villains, and the stronger and more durable you conceive will be your authority over him, till at last you aim at converting your infatuated master into your slave, and conclude that the country and all its resources will be, whil
he lives, wholly yours! These, ruffian, are you
real objects of pursuit.

"*Bernstorff.*—You have said that the vile v
man De Molckt, your confidant and accompl
has nothing to communicate, that you need b
to hear. I have received supplicatory let
signed with her hand, imploring the Pr
pardon, whom you dare thus to revile, on
tion of telling all she knows; and I und
that person can prove the existence of a
terous intercourse between you and Cou
nigsmark. Under this accumulation o
had you not better listen to reason, ackn

your guilt, and resigning the empty title of wife, where you no longer have, or can have, a husband, open the doors of this prison, and once more taste of liberty. To preserve the whole family from further and more public disgrace owing to your depravity: your mother-in-law, the Electress, will yet mediate for you; and obtain an ample yearly allowance, and an agreeable asylum, if you will submit to be divorced, pleading guilty to the charge of adulterous intercourse with the traitor Konigsmark. If you will consent to this, your children's legitimacy shall not be questioned. I am authorized by the Elector, your august father-in-law, as well as by the Duke, your father, to make you this promise.

" *Princess Sophia.*—Begone, villain! I have already degraded myself by replying to your insolent questions, and insidious overtures, that are intended to dishonour and destroy me. Go hence with your myrmidons! Murder me you dare not, or I should not be now alive. I must suffer, but I will not complain. Thank God, your utmost malice cannot make me immortal. Death, in spite of my tyrant's power, will release me, and the Omnipotent Being, whose eye is now upon you, will, even in this world, avenge my wrongs upon my destroyers.

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" My next trial was again to endure the taunts

l insults of the wretch *de Plaaten*. That famous '*kail*' (fellow) had the cruelty to tell me that my wardrobe was distributed amongst my bitterest enemies, and my bed occupied by the odious Meissenbourg. Ah! my children! your poor mother, immured in a gloomy prison, sees not your wrongs, hears not your sighs, nor can she sooth or succour you. Would that my spirit could escape this load of clay by which it is withheld, and that I might, even invisibly to you, my dearest, lovely babes, watch over your safety and guard your morals from pollution*! The monster *Von Plaaten*, when I asked him to let me have the affectionate little animal *Fidelle*, to share my solitude, told me the Elector, at the moment of my arrest, was bitten in the leg by the little creature (whose grateful heart resented the insults offered to his mistress), and was killed on the spot, and buried with '*my gallant*,' the unhappy Count! This little incident affected me. My heart was full, even to breaking, yet I made a shew of resolution, and calmly ex pressed the contempt and indignation I fel The villain was accompanied by his agent, Bot

* This is the first allusion to the children as being abov age of *infancy* The unhappy mother would not have anxious as to their morals, if they had been of the very ago the expressions *babes*, *infants*, *innocents*, &c indicat

man, and the advocate Von H—l—t, who had so often promised, under every extreme, to remember what he owed to my compassionate intercession with my father in his behalf! I had been liberal to him when he was poor and in discredit; and when my evil destiny compelled me to wed a worthless cousin, I obtained, through the Electress, an appointment at Hanover for the ingrate. The man then offended me by his excessive servility and gross adulation. My cruel, unfeeling husband, who filled my household with his pimps and courtesans, bribed high, and gained this faithless advocate. My bosom harbours not a sentiment of guilt as regards the unhappy Count, who was cruelly murdered: being innocent, I had no guilt to confess; yet this miscreant dared to avow that I had confidentially confessed to him the guilty nature of my connexion!—Merciful Heaven! how I sustained this blow I know not. It stunned—it petrified—it froze my heart's blood! Then my soul was wrung indeed!—The villain, Von Plaaten, smiling, ironically said, 'You seem greatly 'affected at the conduct of Mr. Von H—l—t; 'perhaps, when you hear that he has confirmed 'the evidence given by the two advocates before 'Baron Bernstorff, that he has no manner of 'doubt but all the letters purporting to have been 'written by you, or the deceased traitor Konigs-

mark, are true and genuine documents, written by you and by him, you may change your tone. 'Such is the case! Will you now confess your 'guilt; and admit judgment to be passed against 'you, that you may go hence in freedom to 'follow your own vicious inclinations, and enable 'his Serene Highness, the Electoral Prince, to 'dissolve his marriage with you; and, if he 'pleases, seek another consort, more worthy his 'generosity and high virtues?'

"*Princess Sophia.*—Von H—l—t, look me in the face! Is it possible what that miscreant has uttered of you can be true?

"*Von H—l—t.*—Pardon me, Madam, for informing you, that I came not to answer your interrogatories, but to require answers of you. Our relative situations are greatly and suddenly changed. I now hold an official employment of some importance under the Elector; and you, Madam, are a state prisoner, fallen from your high dignity, and overwhelmed with ignominy. The duty I owe to the best of Princes and of masters, and the base nature of your transgressions, have imposed this very painful task on me. Still, t[o] behold you thus humbled, thus degraded, shock[s] my feelings inexpressibly. I regret to see [a] Princess, once so highly esteemed, and whom [I] honoured as my illustrious patroness—the heir[ess] to the reigning Duke of Celle, the conso[rt]

the Electoral Prince of Hanover, on whose paternal house a *still more brilliant fortune* dawns, thus dishonoured, through the influence of her own licentiousness! Tax me not as ungrateful, Madam; I was ever truly grateful whilst your character stood unimpeached. Now, that my gracious Prince has deigned to name me one of his legal advisers, and appointed me one of the commissioners empowered to interrogate you and the Baroness de Molckt, I am therefore bound to do my duty, regardless of all other considerations. No impartial tribunal can, by possibility, acquit you, so strong and so well connected are the proofs of your guilt. Heaven knows how greatly I pity you, and how warmly I remember past kindnesses! In the unhappy circumstances in which you now stand, I cannot display my ever-verdant gratitude more honourably, or usefully, than by giving you the most earnest and solemn admonition to cease exasperating the illustrious family, whom you have irreparably disgraced, and cease to cherish a fallacious hope of withstanding the weight of guilt by which your conscience is oppressed; or of eluding the mass of evidence by which that guilt can be most satisfactorily proved.

"*Princess Sophia.*—I can no longer doubt thy baseness, Von H—l—t; but it is beneath me to reproach a wretch so abject. That thou shouldst

thus plunge daggers into the bosom which has warmed and cherished thee, evinces a degree of depravity that prepares me to expect at thy hands every possible violation of justice. Father of mercy! look down with pity and compassion, for I am encompassed round about with roaring waters, and with foes subtle as the serpent and savage as the tiger! 'I have none to help me, 'none to save!' Yet, even thou art not in thy heart my enemy, Von H—l—t. Poverty is a great stimulant and conductor to crime! My oppressors singled thee out as a fit engine to aid their odious projects, and thou hadst not virtue to resist temptation. I had no secret to intrust thee with, and thou meritest no reproach as having betrayed me; but thou hast degraded human nature, and rendered thy name for ever infamous! The Prince whom now thou servest spurns thy mercenary idolatry. Thou hast, in thy writings and former speeches, lavished as gross flattery on my name as the insults of this day are cruel and most cowardly. By this '*best of Princes*' thou art intensely despised; and even the caitiffs, by whom he is surrounded and deceived, look on thee with derision and scorn!—Look into mine eyes, miserable man! Why thus avert thine own? I am no basilisk—I am only a desolate woman, unjustly cast down by vile conspirators, and sepa-

rated from my infants; but I am armed so strong in conscious innocence, that thou, proud reptile, art but as a worm in my path, which I would not crush, however loathsome its aspect.

"The Prince, whom I blush to own as a husband, and of whose power and depravity I am the victim, obtained me in marriage for the sake of uniting the dominions of our common ancestors. The means that were used to obtain this end were as vile as his treatment of me, after I had been dragged from my native home to Hanover, was indelicate, insulting, and degrading. My husband, Sir, lived, as you well know, in a seraglio: accustomed to the most abandoned of women, he believed every woman as polluted as his harlots. He forced those wretches into my presence; he strove to make them my companions: when I spurned the indignity, he empowered them to mock and insult me. Pride and modesty equally forbid my describing the polluted revels which I have been forced to witness. My days were steeped in sorrow, my nights were passed in tears. The greater was my patience, the more outrageous grew the wrongs he heaped upon me. Not only was my health undermined, but my manners and morals were exposed to the worst contagion of vicious examples. The more I retired, as it were, from my own court, the closer contamination followed

at my heels; and my unfeeling husband has, in the presence of his harlots, struck me with savage fury, dragged me by my hair, and dashed me on the floor at their feet, as they stood, like fiends, malignantly revelling in my sufferings! God, that impels all his creatures to shun what is baleful (as that unerring test my conscience tells me), approves the flight I meditated from that modern Sodom and Gomorrah. And under such mighty wrongs as I have had to encounter, thou, Von H—l—t, seekest, in adversity, thy generous, unsuspecting, confiding benefactress, not to offer any aid in defence of her honour, but to insult, to vilify, to humble her with the harlots who reign in her court, and riot in her bed! And is it thus, wretched man! that presuming on unmerited misfortune, you dare traduce the heiress of Celle—a descendant of Henry the Lion, and of that Duchess of Bavaria whose wit and courage saved her husband and his whole court! Von H—l—t, I see thou art but half a villain! Nature is still too powerful for art. Thou dissemblest for gain. Look at me, Sir! and think of my many wrongs. Answer me truly, I implore thee, but one little question. Grant me this one good, and I will forgive every evil thou hast showered upon me.

"*Von H—l—t* —Princess, I am not the callous monster you believe me! If the question can be

answered without violating my duty, or disavowing my belief of your guilt, I will faithfully reply to whatever you may ask.

"*Bernstorff.*—Beware, Sir, what you concede!

"*Princess Sophia.*—Mark, how much the perfidious minion is alarmed!—In the sacred name of a virtuous and a distressed mother, I conjure you to tell me truly the state of my infants? Conceal nothing, palliate nothing! whatever may have been the fate of those lovely innocents, communicate it! render this act of atonement, and I will forgive every wrong, every falsehood uttered by thee!

"*Von H—l—t.*—They live and are well, Princess. It depends on yourself if they remain entitled to their rank as children of the Electoral Prince, or be degraded as the spurious issue of a faithless, wanton woman.

"*Princess Sophia.*—You might have spared this last outrage, Von H—l—t. Go hence, Sir, back to the wicked adulterer, and tell GEORGE LEWIS, although he is my deadly foe, and his father, who sent me here, is my denunciator and my judge, and absolute master of the venal and corrupt lawyers by whom my cause is to be decided, tell him I say, that he dares not suffer me to transfer, as I have a legal right to do, my cause from his polluted tribunals, to the Imperial Chamber. The despot knows, that so vicious

been his life, so ferocious and unmanly his
treatment of me, that all his suborned agents,
his fabricated proofs, would fail, and he
would stand exposed to the ban of the empire.
Still this man my life is in his hands, and, as he
has blasted its spring, and steeped my youthful
days in misery, it would be charity to put me to
death. I would bare my bosom to the knife,
and die unresistingly, and without murmur,
were I sure my infants are removed from Hanover,
and safe under the care of my mother.
Thus may the Electoral Prince divorce me!
But into a compromise I will never enter. I
have, it is too true, no friend but God! but
having him, I am richer in a dungeon, than my
wicked husband at the zenith of his fortune. I
am able, as you see, to brave his utmost malice,
and defy his lawless power. Innocence is to me
a more pleasing companion in a dungeon, than
the consciousness of guilt would be if sitting on
a throne. Even now he trembles at my name!
Even in the midst of his impure revels, and
ministering pimps and harlots, who compose his
court, he trembles, whilst I pity, despise, and
hurl defiance at his head.

"What further passed was chiefly repetitions
The necessity of applying the rack was distinctl
alluded to They have racked my soul alread
to that degree, that their worst bodily tormen

will feel light, in comparison with the mental tortures the vengeful fiends have already inflicted. Let them come; God, in his infinite goodness, will sustain me under its operation!

"Soon after this interview, Bothman and Von H—l—t arrived; the latter miscreant thus spoke to me:—'I was yesterday at the Ducal 'Palace, in Celle*, Madam. I saw your children in luxurious good health and spirits; as 'also the Duke and Duchess. Your little ones† 'fondly asked after you; whither you were gone, 'why you stayed so long, and when you would 'return to them? I was sensibly touched! Madam, I see how powerfully the narrative affects 'your maternal heart.'

"*Princess Sophia.*—Proceed, Sir; reserve your pity for your master; be brief. A knavish lawyer is always prolix in proportion as his cause is a bad one, his object infamous, and his fee ample!

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* *Celle*, or *Zell*, the same city, differently spelt.

† This expression is not that which I should have chosen; it is too literal a version of a German, or rather of a low Dutch idiom, then very prevalent in Hanover, whereby *diminutives* are used to show the utmost degree of tenderness and affection. If a Dutchman were as tall as the famous giant Goliah, and as fat as Daniel Lambert, his children would say to him, or of him, *myn geliefde vadertje*, i. e. *my dear* LITTLE *father!*

" *Von H—l—t* Your children, Madam! [th]ink of them, and spare your wit! Your father, [t]hough a hero, and accustomed, in his victo[ri]ous career, to scenes of human misery, could [sc]arcely refrain from tears, your mother, the [D]uchess, hid her face and wept —The Duke and Duchess did me the honour to take my opinion (knowing how greatly I had once been your friend), to consult me as to your present and future destiny Your father's motto is, '*Do justice, and leave the rest to Heaven*,' your mother was less stern, but each renounced you!

" *Princess Sophia* —And are my children safe at Celle, and under my mother's care?

" *Von H—l—t* —They are at present how long they may remain depends upon yourself

" *Princess Sophia* —And they asked when their mother would return to press them to her bosom, and lavish on them her fondest, tenderest caresses! Ah! miserable mother! never shalt thou see them more!- never! never! But their God, that has caused their removal from a den of lewdness, will preserve them I hail this event as a token from heaven that my prayer[s] are heard! All I have further to ask, is to mak[e] manifest my innocence, and I feel mentally a[s]sured, even that great mark of Divine favo[ur] will not be for ever withheld I can now m[eet] death without terror, and endure the rack w[ith]

out regaling the ears of my torturers with a word of supplication, and, if possible, without a groan.

"*Bothman.*—Your father has renounced you for ever, and left you wholly at your injured husband's disposal: be wise, and capitulate.

"*Princess Sophia.*—My father I will not blame. Unhappy parent! how terrible would be his pangs were he conscious of the horrid deceptions of which he is the dupe! Beware of his vengeance, miscreants! should that film be removed which your crimes have created, it would be merciful were Heaven to allow him to die unconscious of the injustice he has tolerated. —What have you more to say?

"*Bothman.*—Under the dreadful penalty of a public abjuration and malediction, your father requires you to atone, as far as may yet be in your power, by acknowledging your guilt, dissolving your marriage, and retiring for ever from the Electorate! On these conditions, and no other, a liberal revenue is to be assigned you. His Serene Highness, your father, has seen the letters found in your possession, and also on the person of the adulterer: he was petrified with horror, not more at your licentious passion for the deceased traitor, than your enormous wickedness in denying thus your guilt.

"*Princess Sophia.*—Unhappy, noble-hearted parent! how terribly art thou deceived by those

llish machinations, by deceptions too vile to
e understood or credited by any upright, honest
nan!—What said my dear, unfortunate mother?
You cannot pain me more than you already have
Go on, I wish to hear all that you have to say

" *Bothman* —Your august mother, with your
august father's permission, sent you this note
(handing it to the Princess)

" *Princess Sophia* —(Reading it aloud)—

'The Duchess of Celle, too fully convinced of
'the criminality of her daughter, the Electoral
'Princess, supplicates her to cease offending
'heaven and aggravating her guilt, by audacious
'appeals to the Almighty The maternal bosom
'of the Duchess is torn with shame and sorrow
'at the depravity of her child, whom she can no
'more receive, but for whom, in pity for her
'sufferings, and in hope of her reformation, sh
'will procure an agreeable solitude in the south
'France, where the busy tongue of malice sh
'not assail her, and if Sophia Dorothea w
'agree to quit a country she has dishonoured,
'a family she has made miserable, her mo
'will take charge of the children, and per
'with tenderness and unbounded affecti
'mother's duty towards them By this ste
'yielding to circumstances she cannot re
'resigning the title of Electoral Prince

'the claims of a wife; when, sorrowful for a 'mother to write! after she has played the harlot, 'and thereby forfeited her rights, she may escape 'perpetual and severe confinement, and save her 'parents the bitter disgrace of a public process! 'The determination of the Princess is required 'without delay: her destiny depends upon it.'

"And this infernal scrawl, villain! you dare to tell me was written by my beloved and affectionate mother, and sent to me by you? You dare assert this!

"*Bothman.*—I saw her write it, Madam. I saw her tears fall copiously upon the paper as she composed its lines.

"*Princess Sophia.*—Ruffian! you are a false traitor and a liar*! never did my dear mother's hand trace one of these letters. It is another of your own vile forgeries. Monster! go thy way.

* The violence of this exclamation indicates, what the Journal does not state, namely, that some secret mark had been previously agreed upon between the Duchess and her child, perhaps years previously, to prevent either being imposed upon by forged letters. When Gustavus the Third of Sweden, and his brother Charles, late King of Sweden, separated for the last time, previous to the revolution of 1772 being attempted, they broke a dollar in two, and with the first news of the day being fixed in Stockholm for the great attempt, that half dollar was to be sent with the dispatches to Duke Charles.

ou stupid wretch! go back to the insidious ant by whom thou art employed tell him, at although the character of the letters are ably nitated, I KNOW it to be an infamous FOR-GERY, and, as it is such, I have the consolation to feel morally convinced and assured, even by this criminal deception, of my mother believing me innocent! Her heart has long been tortured by the base intrigues of the Electress, and her wicked agents, and she can see and feel, if she cannot, as she would, avert, the secret hand that wings these plagues and mischiefs Go, then, detected and detested villain! and announce that this hellish expedient has failed!

"I felt like an inspired priestess I forgot my dungeon I seemed all soul, all intellect —the ruffians mocked, and left me Whilst my mind remained unshattered, and I possessed the means, I began this imperfect journal, which I shall en-deavour to secrete where it shall not be discovered by the vigilance of my foes, in the hope, if should be put to death, or should die in my priso it may one day go forth to the world It w my mother whose hand supplied these scanty m terials, and yet she wrote not to me! Unha parent! she durst not write, but she furnished with the means of writing! Ah! I fully un stand her! The penalty of supplying me pen, ink, or with paper, or bringing or co

ing of letters—is *death! and even she might perish!* Perhaps the adventurous person has been detected by whom this essential relief to my sorrow has been conveyed; and my persecutors craftily conceal the event, in order to intercept letters, if I write any, and should rashly attempt to get them conveyed hence. Every day or two, when first I was entombed, I was removed to an adjoining chamber; and the paltry furniture was rummaged or exchanged. In defiance of every precaution, this Journal may be discovered and destroyed, when perhaps the very last hopes, by earthly means, to vindicate my innocence, will be lost. This apprehension distresses me more than the dreary prospect of perpetual confinement, or the fear of a violent death; and my mind at times seems to fail me. O how terrible is my state, separated from, and yet so near to, all that is dear to me on earth! At times I scarcely know what I say to my persecutors! No doubt, as well as forge letters, they also fabricate false confessions, the more efficiently to blast my fame, and incense my husband against me.

" After an interval, I know not how long, as I lay rather slumbering than reposing, I was suddenly awoke by blows on the door of my prison, and commanded by Long Piet to arise, as the commissioners were arrived with authority to put

to the rack, if I still remained obdurate I had en, in my dreams, revelling with my children, nd receiving their fond caresses, just when I was woke, as I thought, to suffer pains worse than death The light of a gloomy lamp enabled me to hurry on my garments In a few minutes the assassin Piet, and two assistants, came, bound my wrists, placed a bandage over my eyes sat me in an armed chair, and carried me up the stone stairs to the Inquisitor's chamber, there the bandage was removed, and I saw the infernal tribunal, to whose cruelty and injustice a merciless husband had consigned me

"The table was hung with black cloth, Von Platen sat as president, the principal lawyer was remarkable for his brutal treatment of an amiable wife, whose days he was said to have shortened by his savage humours and general ill-treatment the second, his equal in official rank, had also killed his wife by his immeasurable licentiousness, no woman was safe on whom he cast a lustful eye, he had a numerous illegitimat progeny, all of whom, and his vulgar mistress too, lived on the public revenue of a poor, im poverished people the third of these ermined r ffians had a handsome wife and large family, he also kept, in secret, a seraglio Joined those venal and polluted judges was H—l—t, and others, whom I imperfectly k

Von Plaaten, as I said before, presided, as being the chief of the Elector's counsellors. I was placed at the foot, opposite the president. On my right-hand side were the inferior agents, all masked, and near me the instruments of torture. The small lancet windows were scarcely perceptible in the gloom of night. A number of old decayed family portraits hung mouldering against the walls. Amongst them my eyes fixed spontaneously on the masculine figure of the heroic wife of Duke Gwelph, of Bavaria! I thought that great woman bent her eyes benevolently on me: it was a mere illusion; still it gave me confidence. Whilst thus my eye wandered over the Inquisitors and the room, I was called to by their secretary to attend to the solemn process then beginning.

"The president of this cabal read a long commission, in which I was arraigned of all the crimes indicated in these notes: the forged letters were all tendered to me; and I was admonished, if I persisted in denying the truth of the charges, I was immediately to be placed in the hands of those whose office it was to apply the torture, both ordinary and extraordinary. I heard this unmoved: I felt wholly unawed: a supernatural power seemed to support me and to buoy me up, as I said—'I deny every imputation cast upon 'my honour; every stigma upon my virtue I

epel I am still as much in the power of God, and as liable to his protecting arm, as if I were living in the Electoral palace, where harlots riot, and still had that husband for my shield 'who is become my deadliest foe! Ye gang of 'midnight murderers!' continued I, 'begin your 'infernal task! I ask no mercy; for mercy dwells 'not in such foul bosoms; but BEWARE, first, of 'God's vengeance, which, sooner or later, will 'fall upon you, and, next to the wrath divine, 'tremble at the punishment which my deluded 'father will inflict, whenever the film shall be 'removed which your artifices have cast over his 'mental eyes!' A smile of contempt was the impression I produced 'The prisoner is obdu- 'rate,' said the wretch Von Plaaten 'Officers! 'apply the torture to her hands!' In an instant, the chair in which I sat was wheeled rapidly towards a table, or bench, hollowed at the end t and on the board or top was a sort of groove, t admit an arm on either side, which were pinion down by cords and screws I scarcely knew I were hurt by this operation, for before wedges could be applied, which distend fingers, and dislocate the joints, the nois horses' feet, and the sound of bugles, annou the arrival of some herald—whether of de life, of good or evil, I knew not. In minutes Von Plaaten was called out; and

remained, my arms pinioned, my hands exposed, so that the torturers could break or distend my fingers and my thumbs. Further along I saw the larger screws, which my tormentors told me were hereafter to be applied, in case of confirmed obduracy, to crush the elbow joints! I shuddered involuntarily, and prayed aloud to the Almighty to enable me to endure all their tortures without allowing its agony to force me, either to accuse any innocent person of crimes, or to confess that of which I had never been guilty. I cried aloud—'Oh, God! who beholdeth these in-'struments of torture, and these wicked men by 'whom I am surrounded; hear my solemn dis-'avowal of the crime of adultery! Deal with me, 'Thou, whose arm none can shorten or elude, as 'I am guilty or innocent! Before thy throne I 'bow myself down, and, as a dying sinner who 'hopeth for mercy through thy grace alone, I 'implore thee, at thy own good time, to make 'manifest my innocence, and always bless and 'protect my children and parents, and forgive 'my persecutors.'—As I uttered this prayer in a firm, sonorous tone, I felt my heart dilated, my courage renovated: the Inquisitors appeared daunted, and looked at each other in silent astonishment and apparent dismay.—'Perhaps,' said I, 'my father has detected your crimes! If 'so, prepare for instant punishment. You are

murdering his innocent child upon his territory, and in his own castle!—Their inquietude increased at this address, and the reptile Von H—l—t visibly shook, so lively were the terrors of that caitiff. Still, my arms were confined within the iron grooves of the rack, and the pain I suffered was not small; but the terror so visible among the instruments of guilty vengeance, inspired new courage and fortitude; and I surveyed them with ineffable scorn and calm contempt.

"In that state I was left full a quarter of an hour, when the chief of the court blood-hounds, Von Platen, returned. His looks plainly bespoke the heavy chagrin that preyed on his black heart. At his side was a military officer of high rank, whose tall stature, and lofty port, announced my honoured father's trustiest friend and old companion in arms, Major-General ——

"Advancing to the tribunal, he said, in a voi of command—' Your authority is dissolved your commission revoked—release the Prin instantly! Well is it for you all you have g no farther, and a foul disgrace it is that have gone thus far!' I looked at the warrior, and at the horrid machine into my limbs were fixed. His manly bosom s with sorrow and indignation as he said, in dued voice, just as the obedient mutes

leased me—'Princess, I come from the Duke, 'your father, my noble and generous master. 'By his command you are released from the 'rack. Your affectionate mother discovered this 'horrid project, and throwing herself on her 'knees, implored your father to save you. Na-'ture prevailed: you are not to be tortured---'not insulted; but I grieve to say, your sentence 'of perpetual imprisonment remains unchanged!' As the veteran spoke, his voice faltered, and a tear glistened in his expressive eye.

"I said, 'General! your sympathy is dearer 'to my bleeding heart than exemption from the 'rack, and from the future insolence of those 'vile miscreants, on whom the stroke of ven-'geance will yet alight! You are a man of 'honour; on your word I dare rely: tell me, 'then, I conjure you, are my children alive and 'well, and under my beloved mother's care? 'Are they removed from the impure court of 'their cruel father, by whom their mother's ruin 'has been accomplished? Oh! in pity to a 'mother's pangs, whose heart is breaking with 'agonizing suspense, answer me!'

"*General.*—'God knows, my Princess, how 'truly I pity your sad condition. On my honour, 'as a soldier and as a man, I tell you truly, that 'your children are both in high health at Zell, 'under the immediate care of the Duchess, your

nother I dare not say more All communication is forbidden on pain of death, except sanctioned by your husband's authority Adieu, 'Princess! There are thousands who believe you 'innocent, and who hope, with me, if you are 'falsely accused, that your Prince and family 'may soon be undeceived, and the sword of 'justice yet strike your accusers'

"As he spake this, he bowed profoundly to me, and retired without saying a word more to the enraged inquisitors I was so shaken by conflicting passions, I could scarcely speak, but, mustering all the contempt and scorn I could throw into my features, I said to Von Platen, 'Tremble, miscreant! the hand of God has re-'leased me from the rack, and will yet crush 'thee, and these thy vile accomplices! Lead me 'back to my prison-room, where, next to th 'felicity of being restored to my honour an 'family, my greatest happiness will be to refle 'on this providential defeat of thy hellish plo He made no reply All was sullen silence as I turned to my prison, where I sunk on my kn and poured forth the effusions of a gra heart to the God by whom I had been miraculously delivered*'

* It must be admitted that the above scene is of mantic nature and appears suspicious But whoeve

The next portion of this publication, is of a less interesting character than the preceding, but more decidedly authentic. It displays the torrent of depravity let in upon this country with the imported Court of Hanover, pourtrayed by a wretched being, who had basely betrayed his native country to accelerate the introduction of an union with England, and the establishment on the throne of the Electress Sophia and her progeny.

This unhappy man (Ker of Kersland), after all his intrigues to serve George the First, was deserted and left to suffer under the united calamities of old age, poverty, and deep disgrace. Nor can it be denied that he had merited his fate, which realized the *Milanese proverb* lately quoted, for after having *served a court*, he '*died upon straw.*' The picture he draws of the corrupt practices of the imported minions and harlots, displays a mass of political corruption, that has never been exceeded in the Court of England at any period of its annals.

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the conduct of the Duke of Zell towards his daughter, as described in HOME TRUTHS, Part I., will perceive no bar to its credibility, either in the act of cruelty meditated, or the reserved conduct of the General who effected her deliverance.

PART IV.

THE

SECRET HISTORY

OF THE CORRUPT PRACTICES OF THE

DUCHESS OF KENDAL,

ND THE PRIVATE FAVOURITES OF GEORGE THE FIRST.

Illustrative of the Morals and Manners of the British Court, from the Accession of George the First, till the end of his Reign

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"FROM this Prince's court (Hesse Cassel*), I directed my journey to Hanover, taking Lambshring in my way, where there is a convent of English monks; and there I met with a very aged, worthy, and harmless gentleman, a Sir Thomas Gascoigne, a person of more integrity and piety than to be guilty, even in thought, of what miscreants wrote against him in the licentious time of plotting; the Lord Abbot, and several of the monks, I had seen there formerly."

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* Memoirs of John Ker, Esq of Kersland, 2 Vols. Octav published London, 1727.

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"I love not that religion, which, instead of exalting, destroys the principles of morality. I have met with honest men of all persuasions, even Turks and Jews, who in their lives and manners, have far exceeded many of our enthusiastic professors at home, and whenever this happened, I could not forbear to love the men without embracing their religion, for which they themselves have to account to their great Master and Judge."

"The Court of Hanover makes another kind of figure than that of Cassel, it being the court of a greater Prince, who is Bishop of Osnaburg, Duke of Brunswick, Lunenburg, Hanover, &c. Here I had the honour to kiss the hands of the Princess Royal, Sophia, youngest sister to the late Prince Rupert. Her Highness has the character of the *merry debonaire*, Princess of Germany, a lady of extraordinary virtue and accomplishments: she is mistress of the Italian, French, high and low Dutch, and English languages, which she speaks to perfection. Her husband has the title of the gentleman of Germany, a graceful and comely Prince both afoot and horseback; civil to strangers beyond compare; infinitely kind and beneficent to people in distress; and known to the world for a valiant

l experienced soldier I had the honour to
e his troops, which, without controversy, are
ood men, and commanded by as expert officers
s any there are in Europe Amongst them I
found brave *steel-hand* Gordon, colonel of an
excellent regiment of horse, Grimes, Hamilton,
Talbot, and others of our king's subjects God
hath blessed this Prince with a numerous off-
spring, having six sons, all gallant Princes, of
whom his two eldest distinguished themselves so
bravely at raising the siege of Vienna, that, as
an undoubted proof of their valour, they brought
three Turks home to this court prisoners His
eldest son is married to a most beautiful Princess,
sole heiress of the Duke of Lunenburg and Zell,
his eldest brother, as the lovely Princess, his
daughter, is lately married to the Electoral
Prince of Brandenburg He is a gracious Prince
to his people, and keeps a very splendid court
having in his stables, for the use of himself an
children, no less than fifty-two sets of coac
horses He himself is a Lutheran, but, as
subjects are Christians of different persuasi
ny, and some of them Jews too, so bot
his court and army he entertains gentlem
various opinions and countries, as *Italian*
and gentlemen that serve him, and man
vinist *French* officers neither is he so

in his religion, but that he and his children go many times to church with the Princess, who is a Calvinist, and join with her in her devotion."

* * * * * * *

"From this Prince's court I went to Zell, the residence of the Duke, the elder brother of the family. This prince is called the mighty *Nimrod*, because of the great delight he takes in horses and dogs, and hunting. He did me the honour to let me see his stables, wherein he keeps three hundred and seventy horses, most of them *English*, or of *English* breed. His dogs, which are also English, are so many, that with great care they are quartered in several apartments, according to their kind and quality, there being a large office, like a brewhouse, employed for boiling of malt and corn for them. It is this valiant Prince who took *Treves* from the French, and made the *Marshal de Crequi* prisoner. He is extremely obliging to strangers, and hath several brave Scotch officers in his pay, as Major-General Erskine, Graham, Coleman, Hamilton, Melvin, and others. His Lieutenant-General is one *Chavot*, a Protestant of Alsatia, an excellent and experienced commander; who did me the honour to treat me three days at his house; where with all his Scottish and English officers whom he had invited, we liberally drank

to the health of our present King*, having, as he told us, served under his Majesty, when Duke of *York*, both in France and *Flanders*, where he gained the reputation both for skill and conduct in the wars, not only from Marshal *Turin*, a competent judge, but also from all other general persons who had the honour to know him, that fame hath made better known to the world, than the encomium which that generous gentleman ingenuously gave, and which here I spare to relate. I shall add no more concerning this Prince, his officers, and country; but that he, with the other two Princes of the house of *Lunenburg*, *Hanover*, and Wolfembuttel, can, upon occasion, bring into the field *thirty-six thousand* soldiers, whom they keep in constant pay, and such men as I never saw better in my life."

* Mr. Ker, Consul at Amsterdam, wrote this Journal during the reign of James the Second Mr. Ker seems to have been a complete courtier; his Princes are all wise, brave, and patriotic; his Princesses fair and virtuous! He takes especial care to notice Lieutenant-General Chavot, who entertained a Scottish tourist three days at his house! Surely Sir John read this work!——*Ed.*

Extract: Memoirs of John Ker, Esq., Vol. 1, Part I. p. 88, &c.

"The last night I was there *(Vienna)*, Monsieur de Leibnitz did me the favour to sup with me, and gave me a letter to her Royal Highness, now Princess of Wales (afterwards Queen of England—Caroline); one to Baron Bernstorff; and some others to the Hanoverian ministers, he gave to my interpreter. We sat some hours together, and he took his leave with real marks of sincere affection and respect." * * *
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"I took post for Hanover, where I arrived in July, 1714, and a little after the death of that most excellent Princess the late Electress Sophia. I was presented to the Elector, now his present Majesty (George the First), and afterwards to her Royal Highness, now Princess of Wales, with Monsieur de Leibnitz's letter, which she received very graciously, as they both did me. She told me that she had seen the papers I had sent to the late Electress, which had procured me her particular respects.

"I want words to express the winning, easy, affable behaviour, and sweet good temper of her Royal Highness at that time to all our countrymen, particularly to myself. I told her of all

my proceedings at *Vienna*, and of the good disposition I left the Emperor in towards the succession of the illustrious House of Hanover to the British crown; that she would soon hear my Lord *Middleton*, who was going to Vienna from the *Pretender*, would be but very indifferently received at that court.

"I shall not trouble the reader with the uncommon civilities I received then at the court of *Hanover*, which the English that were there can testify, and in return, I took all opportunities of letting her Royal Highness know of the *British* affairs in general, and what concerned her own family in particular

"Baron Bernstorff desired me to draw up a memorial, with the substance of the papers I sent to the late Electress*, and my opinion of what was proper to be done at that time to

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* It is by no means clearly expressed whom Mr. Ker meant Probably it was the mother of George the First, and sister of Prince Rupert, who is called the "*merry debonaire*" in the preceding extract This Baron Bernstorff seems to have laid *a trap* for Mr Ker who was honest enough to give good council. He warned George the First to avoid giving offence to his English subjects, by suffering his *German* officers to interfere in their affairs this gave offence to Bernstorff, and that infamous woman afterwards created Duchess of Kendal, by whose machinations Mr Ker was utterly ruined and undone —*Ed*

preserve the Hanover succession to the English crown, which I did accordingly." * *

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"With this memorial I proposed a method of correspondence betwixt Great Britain and Hanover; which, when it was presented to, and perused by his Electoral Highness, he produced and caused it to be read in council: and next day he told me at court that he was extremely well pleased with it, as also did Baron *Bernstorff*, and Baron *Gortz*, Chamber President, who complimented me upon it." * * *

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"Not long after this, through indefatigable labour and application, I was attacked with a fit of sickness, which the court seemed to be sorry for, as they expressed upon several occasions. And then came the news of the Queen's death (Anne), and his Electoral Highness being proclaimed King, upon which the whole court very seasonably rejoiced; and when I recovered I went to kiss his Majesty's hand, and congratulated him as follows:

"May it pleasure your Majesty,

"*It is with great thankfulness to God, and infinite satisfaction to myself**, *that I have*

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* Poor Ker! he little thought at that moment he should be thrown aside the moment his services were no longer wanting.

now the honour to kiss your hand as my King and Sovereign I am at a loss for words to express my joy on this occasion, and wish your Majesty a long and happy reign over a dutiful and obedient people

"His Majesty thanked me, and said, *I had already proved my sincerity and affection to him*

"I next addressed the Princess of *Wales* in the following words

"May it please *your Royal Highness,*

"*I have at last seen the happy day for which I have been very often willing to lose my life, and which I have as often ventured upon that account My joy is so exceedingly great, that I think all my labour and industry is more than rewarded.*

"Which professions of mine I have a most convincing proof *were entirely credited*, for they have taken me at my word!

"Her Royal Highness* was pleased to express

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and left miserably to perish in a gaol! Yet, such was his fate, as will presently be seen, and such the gratitude of George the First!—*Ed*

* Caroline seems to have had the miserable fate of her husband's mother before her eyes, and strove, by unwearied care and submission to avoid a similar destiny In the Walpoliana (2) it is stated, that "George the Second was ruled by his Queen, and not by his mistresses Queen Caroline indeed deserved the favour she enjoyed. So attentive was she to her husband, that he could not walk through the gardens without

her hearty thanks, saying, *she knew I had spoken from my very heart.*

"The King was pleased to present me, by the hands of Baron Bernstorff, his first minister, with a couple of gold medals of some value, one with his own, and the other with his mother's effigies. The Baron told me, his Majesty *had sent me this present, not as a reward of my great services, which were not to be compensated with such trifles, but only as a token of his royal favour: but when he came to Great Britain, he had something in view for me of much greater value*—which, indeed, I never yet had."

"The English came to *Hanover* in great *numbers, it is easily known upon what design;* and upon all these remarkable accidents I wrote the following letter to Monsieur de Leibnitz at Vienna:

"SIR, *S. N. Hanover, August 25th, 1714.*

"*It is with the extremest pleasure I have the* honour to congratulate you upon the great and good news *of his Majesty's accession to the crown* of Great Britain; and being now become his subject, I must not presume to speak so freely as I did before.

"It will be much for the King's service, and

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her calling for her cloak, and following him, even when she had a cold, or otherwise indisposed."—Vol. i. p. 129.

the happiness of Great Britain, that you instantly leave Vienna, and make haste to Hanover; for by reason of your universal knowledge, particularly of the British affairs, your long experience, and great reputation with the King, you are justly entitled, more than any other man in the world, to be his chief counsellor before he goes to England, to whose manners and language he is but too much a stranger.

"Pray pardon me for putting you in mind that the success of all great enterprises depends much upon the power which gives the first motion: that one wrong step being made cannot easily be retrieved; and considering the present divisions and animosities in Britain, it will require uncommon application to extricate him out of the difficulties which will unavoidably attend him, if he takes part with one side more than another.

"I am sorry to tell you that I find the Hanoverian ministers altogether unacquainted with our country affairs; that even *Bernstorff* is led by the nose by an ignorant fellow called *Robotham*, who has nothing to recommend him but his own private interest, party rage, and insolence enough to do too much mischief at this critical juncture, upon which all our future happiness depends.

"Pray excuse this long letter, and make

haste: in the mean time, do me the justice to believe, that I am, with the greatest *sincerity* and respect, Sir, yours, &c.

" *(Signed)* KER, OF KERSLAND.

" I likewise wrote to *Mr. Fury*, to use his endeavours with the other (M. Leibnitz), to make no excuse nor delay: but being an old man, and not able to make long journeys, he reached not Hanover till three days after the King went for Holland. It was presumption in me to meddle with matters *out of my province, and to use such freedom with his Majesty, as was necessary* at that time, would ruin my pretences to his favour. But from my sincere affection for his person, and zeal for his glory and happiness of his reign, when his Majesty arrived at the Hague, I drew up a second memorial, and gave it to Baron Gortz to lay before the King, which he read, and promised to do it very cheerfully, wishing his Majesty had many such subjects that desired his interests *more than their own;* and when we met in England, I was to have an account of its success."

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" When his Majesty embarked for *Great Britain*, just as I was going aboard with the rest of the retinue, Colonel Chichester, brother to the Earl of Dunnagald, and Colonel Billingsly, being

along with me, another gentleman, who seemed to be one of the company, took me aside, and told me he came that morning to the Hague; but hearing we were gone to Rotterdam, for our last embarkation, he followed to speak with me, being willing to trust himself only to my management.

"He said he came from *Bar le Duc* (Bois le Duc) to make such discoveries as very much concerned the King's safety; and assured me that matters had gone so far in the Queen's reign in favour of the *Pretender*, that still there were some attempts to be made; and if I would encourage him, he would fix a correspondence with me, and would give a faithful account of every thing that should be acted against the interest of King George. I answered, that I could not then make him any promise, neither was it prudent in me to correspond with him, that being the secretary of state's province; but as it might be for his Majesty's service to know what his enemies were doing, I told him I would receive his advices from time to time, and would encourage him with all the supplies my private circumstances would allow, till such time as his accounts and advices proved to be of any consequence to be laid before the King; so that we both promised and exchanged proper directions, and parted.

"When we came to London, Dr. Brandenshagen gave me the following letter from the worthy Monsieur *De Leibnitz*, being ordered to deliver it with his own hand.

"SIR, Hanover, October 8, 1714.

"I had the honour of your's at *Vienna*, which Mr. Fury delivered to me, having made all the dispatch possible; but the bad weather, and my advanced age, did not permit me to arrive here till his Majesty was gone.

"I believe he might have been found at the Hague, if I had taken post; but I was afraid he would have been too much crowded to have leisure enough to hearken to me on so weighty a subject, nevertheless I resolved to come to London, but whether with the Princess, or at some other time, I cannot be positive.

"I am glad you have discharged your duty to your king and country so faithfully, having read a copy of the memorial you sent, with great pleasure. I am entirely of your opinion, and so was the late Electress: I hope nothing will divert his Majesty from following what is so much for his interest, nor make him concern himself with the party quarrel of *Whig* and *Tory*; but to employ people of merit and worth in his service, without respect to either; to be

punctual in doing justice to all, and generously rewarding them who deserve it

"Leaving, by all means, the elections of parliament to the people's free choice, discouraging bribery, and such unsuitable practices as have been used in former reigns, which will produce an assembly of men of honour and worth, who *will have nothing but the general good of the* nation, and other generous things in view.

"I both wish and hope that our *German* ministers will never offer to meddle in *British* affairs, which would not only be very unjust in itself, but also very reasonably make the King lose the affections of his people

"I shall be glad of a constant correspondence with you Dr Brandenshagen, an honest German, will receive your letters, and forward them to me under his cover, you may safely trust him. I wish I may *hear good news from* you, and shall always *remain with* great affection and esteem,

"Your most obedient Servant,
"*(Signed)* LEIBNITZ

"*Baron Gortz told* me his Majesty *had* graciously received my last memorial, and assured me if I asked any thing from the King for myself, I need not doubt of success, his Majesty having told him at *Hanover*, that *he* would take

particular care when he came on this side. He (Gortz) likewise promised to be a faithful special agent himself with the King to obtain my request; for he said he was convinced his Majesty could never forget my great services: and truly I must be so arrogant as to believe that nobody else could have thought it, till once they peruse these memoirs.

"Upon this proposal of Baron Gortz, I consulted some merchants in the city, who desired me to ask the government of Bermudas in the West Indies, which, if obtained, it would encourage them to commence a trade which would be profitable to the whole nation, as well as to themselves, whereas it had hitherto been only a charge.

"My friends, the merchants, easily agreed to all advantages I proposed, because they could have no such expectations, but from such a Governor as had been appointed by their advice.

"Whereupon I drew up a petition to the King, and delivered it to Baron Gortz, who received it with abundance of pleasure, and said, he was glad I had given him an opportunity to serve me; that he would deliver it to his Majesty, and second it with all his heart.

"I went to Baron Bernstorff, and told him what I had done, not doubting to succeed, since I was willing to accept that government as a full

recompence for all my services and expences I had been at to serve his Majesty; which he knew had been all out of my own pocket, and that my last voyage to Germany cost me above a thousand pound, besides all other charges upon many occasions.

"Bernstorff said he would likewise back my petition, for it was very just.

"I was not a little surprised, when I heard from a *German* favourite of the Baron's, not long afterwards, that I could not succeed, unless I made Monsieur *Robotham* my friend, because he had such prodigious influence with *Bernstorff*, that I could not expect success another way.

"I answered, not without passion, that I was sorry to find such practices suffered so very easily among the foreign ministers, having lately given so seasonable an advice to the contrary; that I would rather want, nay, renounce all pretences to a post, than give one of them a farthing. The gentleman replied, that the *Hanoverian* ministers did not look upon themselves as foreigners; '*for sure*,' said he, '*you cannot think 'they are come here only to learn your language? 'If you resolve to keep your money, depend upon 'it you shall never have that government, notwithstanding all your pretences, which I know 'are very just and very deserving**.'

* It is highly probable, that those foreign leeches sold the

"And accordingly, in five days afterwards, that government was given to another; upon which, I went to Baron *Gortz*, who expressed the greatest concern for my disappointment, and told me *Bernstorff* and *Bothman* were the only foreigners who interfered in British affairs; and that he found with sorrow it was *not* in his power to help me, though he well knew how much I deserved the King's favour and benevolence.

"Next time I met with Bernstorff, he looked with quite another air than he used to do, knowing me not to be a man for their purpose*.

"*Notwithstanding this treatment*, and all these disappointments, my affection to his Majesty was not the least lessened; for I continued all necessary correspondence at my own expense,

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reversion of places before the Queen was dead; since it is clear, no sooner did they set foot on English ground, than *five hundred guineas* was fixed as the price of the government of *Bermudas!* The *Mary Ann Clarke* of that day, alias the Duchess of Kendal, no doubt, had a large share of such bribes. —*Ed.*

* The cause of all Mr. Ker's misfortunes was his candour and honesty. Without forgetting his own interest, it is clear, he thought more of promoting that of his King and country: if he had let those matters alone, and become the pander of Bernstorff, Bothman, and the King's mistresses, he might have become rich and great, and perhaps died a peer of the realm.—*Ed.*

with the same zeal and application as formerly, and as if I had enjoyed all the tokens and demonstrations of his royal bounty and favour; for I now confess, with sorrow and shame, that my too forward zeal not only rendered me so infatuated, that I not only spent what money I had, but even borrowed large sums from others, to procure advices which I thought so much for the interest of my King and country.

"In my correspondence, I was informed of several material designs against the government, particularly from the gentleman I met at Rotterdam, whom I encouraged with what little supplies I could afford, never doubting to be at least faithfully refunded. Upon this gentleman's informations, I was likewise forced to fix a correspondence with many places in *Great Britain*, to find how his accounts agreed with theirs, and how much they were to be depended on; for they related to matters of very great importance, that were upon the anvil at that time in Great Britain, in concert with the Court at Bar le Duc.

"Having at last got to the perfect understanding of this affair, and found it ripe for discovery, I wrote the following letter to Bernstorff:—

"SIR, London, June [illegible]

"I think it my duty to acquaint [illegible]

there are some *things in agitation now* against the government, which, in all appearance, will come to light very soon. There hath also been some *pains* taken *to convince* me *that the government hath* used me *very ill*; and *that I* am deceived, if I expect any grateful return for my services; and that if I go into some measures and designs that are now forming against him, I may have it in my power to retrieve my misfortunes, by not only making my peace with the Pretender, but many other advantageous offers, too long here to trouble you withal, and threatening me with ruin upon refusal.

" In spite of all my private resentments, which I may justly conceive against you know whom, I am entirely in his Majesty's interest, and will venture any thing to serve him, if he continues to believe I am any way qualified for that end.

" *I have already engaged several persons*, particularly a clergyman, who *is* willing, upon encouragement, to discover some private transactions of the cabal, being at the bottom of the whole affair.

" I depend upon your diligence to lay this before the King without delay, which I should have by no means troubled you with, *had you not told me that* his Majesty commanded me to make you my only confidant in every thing of this kind. Your humble Servant,

" KER, OF KERSLAND.

"I gave this letter to a certain great minion of the Baron's*, before three other gentlemen, who will testify the truth upon occasion.

"The Baron's friend told me afterwards, that he had delivered it into his own hands, but had no answer I desired him to apply, and pressed for his commands, which he told me he had requested every day, and could never receive any other answer, but that he would consider of it.

"I was much surprised at these delays in matters of such consequence; but could find no reason for it, for some time.

"I hope no person will think me so foolish as to imagine that the King's chief minister of Hanover could be in the Pretender's interest; nor do I charge him with it, but the reader may well imagine that there was some reason for it, which I shall lay open, both as to fact and opinion, in its proper place.

"I writ him a second letter, and sent him abundance of messages. At last, he vouchsafed this answer—that he had communicated the affair to the Duke of *Montrose*, who told him there was nothing in what I said; nor any commotions or appearance of an insurrection, as I had told him.

"Notwithstanding all this, which an ill-na-

* This minion was probably the celebrated *Bothman* —*Ed*

tured man may reckon impudent or insolent enough, in a few days his Majesty went to the House, and acquainted them with the danger with which both he and the kingdom were threatened, and demanded the necessary supplies, as by the speech will appear.

"Then Bernstorff sent a messenger, desiring me to go to the Lord Townshend, secretary of state, and lay before him what I knew of those matters; but it was then too late, for the Earl of Mar was gone to the Highlands, and the chief men on that side separated *.

"No doubt the reader will think I ought to have communicated those advices first of all to the British ministry, who, doubtless, were the only proper persons to receive them; but he must know, that upon the news coming to Hanover, that the Elector was proclaimed King and my receiving the medals above mentioned, Baron Bernstorff told me he was ordered to desire the continuance of my zeal to his Majesty's person and government; and that, whatever I might discover of consequence for his interest, should be first of all communicated to him, who was likewise commanded

* The Earl of Mar set up the standard of rebellion in favour of the exiled Stuarts on the 5th September, 1715; which might have been prevented, if Mr. Ker's communication had been duly attended to.—*Ed.*

to defray all my charges upon that or any other account; which I hope will be accepted as a good reason why I proceeded this way, though I must acknowledge, at the same time, it was a great breach of my duty, and a great prejudice done to my country, but the truth is, my affection to the King, together with my belief that it was his special commands (as Bernstorff told me) made me both active and passive in many things I have since had leisure to be ashamed of, and repent.

"But I am weary of this subject, which occasioned so much blood both in Scotland and England; which was in a great measure owing to Bernstorff's management, and those in concert with him; who, by seizing the Earl of Mar, and some others at that time, might have easily *prevented* the rebellion, and consequently the destruction of so many noble families who are now sufferers thereby."

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"Being thus abused and disappointed by Bernstorff, I ventured to follow his Majesty to Hanover, and so went to Holland in August, 1716." * * * * *

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"I arrived at Hanover in the month of November, 1716, on the very day the late famous Monsieur de Leibnitz died, which plunged me into so much sorrow and grief, that I cannot ex-

press it. I shall not pretend to give the character of this incomparable senator, far more able pens have already made encomiums upon this truly great man, whose very meritorious fame must continue while learning or the world endures; and therefore I shall add no more, than to declare, in gratitude to his memory, that he was so much concerned and affected with the hardships I suffered, that without my knowledge he ordered a debt of two hundred and thirty pounds, which I had contracted in Germany, to be discharged out of his own pocket.

"I must confess it afforded me matter of strange reflection, when I perceived the little regard that was paid to his ashes by the *Hanoverians;* for he was buried in a few days after his decease, more like a robber than what he was, the ornament of his country.

"When the court returned, I went to Baron Bernstorff with my *memorial;* who, receiving me with abundance of civility, I told, he would therein be convinced of the services I had performed since his Majesty's accession, and that I would attend him very soon to know his pleasure. He answered, *I should be welcome as often as I pleased,* and promised to peruse it.

"But before I returned, I was surprised to hear a gentleman say, that the memorial I had presented concerning the King of Sweden, had

so frustrated all my intention, that I should never receive a farthing of my charges, much less for the great trouble and pains I had taken; which I should be convinced of by the Baron's reception of me next time I went to visit him.

"Whereupon I went immediately, and sure enough I was convinced, for I was, by his servants, forced to stand at the door till he came out, and so threw myself in the way, and asked him *if that was the welcome he had promised?* 'and if, Sir,' said I, 'this be the *treatment I am* '*to expect, it is but reasonable I should be, at least* '*reimbursed of my expenses, for I have served* '*his Majesty very faithfully, which I shall make* '*appear in proper time and place, therefore, Sir,* '*I demand my money, which, I believe, by your* '*means, hath been so long unjustly detained from* '*me*'

"He said he would inform the King, and give me an answer the next day.

"Notwithstanding all this ill usage, I was prevailed upon to attend this great man once more, expecting the money I had so justly required; instead of which he left me abruptly, affecting a silent disdain, which I really smiled at, reflecting upon his former obsequious cringing, when he attended me with the present of the medals which his Majesty had honoured me withal, when I was there before

"I wish that my countrymen could have perceived what an alteration the *climate* and *cash* of Great Britain had made in so short a time!

"Next I waited on Baron Gortz, who was a gentleman of integrity and honour, and told him how *Bernstorff* had served me; which troubled him so much, that he tendered me his good offices, to persuade him (Bernstorff) to do me justice; which I told him would be to no purpose; but if he pleased to tell the King I had occasion for some money I had disbursed in his service, to take me home, I would take it as a singular favour, and as a token of the sincere respect he always expressed for me; being fully satisfied he left no stone unturned to adjust matters, for he was heartily ashamed of Bernstorff's usage; nevertheless he could obtain no other answer, but that all *British affairs* were to be considered in *Britain*. Though in a few days, one of the clerks in the finances brought me a hundred dollars, as a present from the King. Soon after this I went to a Hamburg merchant, who readily consented to take a note for my passage home.

"The last mentioned present, with the two medals, is all that I have yet received for all my services, both at home and abroad, though *Bernstorff* told me the former was only given

me as an earnest of his Majesty's future favours. These minute particulars I should not have mentioned, had not his secretary told abundance of people here that I had obtained several sums from his Majesty out of his Hanoverian treasury.

"I took my leave of that court with a firm resolution never to return to it again; and from thence I went to the Court of *Wolfembuttle*, and to that of *Rodolf Ludowick*, father to the present Empress after some short stay there, I went from thence to *Hamburg*, where I embarked for England, and arrived in *London*, 1717."

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"After treating of the purchase of the Duchies of Bremen and Verden, the unfortunate and neglected politician thus proceeds viz.

"I shall dwell no longer on this subject than to observe, that a little after this new acquisition to the Electorate of Hanover, there was a squadron of *English* men of war fitted out, and sent to the Baltic to straighten the Swedes, and a proclamation issued out, prohibiting our trade with them. I shall not presume to allege that the foreign ministers (Hanoverian) influenced those motions; only there happened an *accident* at that time, which would countenance such a supposition, viz. some time before the prohibition

of trade with the Swedes was declared, or our *English* merchants knew any thing about it, *advices came from merchants abroad, at Amsterdam, &c. to buy up all the Swedish iron they could find, for such a day the proclamation would be published,* which answered exactly to the foreign advice, and *afterwards* the price of iron was raised *almost double* what it had been before.

"It was thought strange at that time, and gave some uneasiness, that foreigners should reap the benefit of this, which our British merchants knew nothing of, *till they had bought up all our iron,* and *the* proclamation *was out; yet the foreign merchants* knew every step relating to *this affair, and had sufficient time to reap the advantages arising from it.*"

Alluding to the *two beauties,* brought over from Hanover by George the First, who were created *British Peeresses,* Mr. Ker writes,

"It is well known, and worthy of observation, that the Whigs entertained, and not without reason, very great fears of the danger of Great Britain from foreign counsels; and that the whole nation, in a former reign, was greatly surprised when only *one* foreign lady, viz. the *Duchess of Portsmouth,* was created an *English Peeress,* thereby apprehending she possibly might influence that Prince to favour foreign interests.

And if *one* lady in those days was capable to raise such jealousies in the minds of British subjects, what would a *Shaftsbury*, or the other politicians of those times say, if they *now* existed? *Hinc illæ lacrymæ!* This parallel is a pursuit too dangerous for any living historian, so that, in concert with the painter, here, I must draw a veil "

" THE SOUTH SEA BUBBLE

" I come now to touch upon a very melancholy subject, which I will do briefly, with all possible candour and tenderness, for to enlarge upon it, and give a full detail of facts, would be too dangerous for me, and give offence, which by all means I wish to avoid

" The *South Sea* scheme, and the fallacy and fatal consequence of the same, are too fresh in memory to be forgotten by any British subject, that there was a *pernicious* and *ensnaring design* to destroy and impoverish the unthinking part of this nation, is too plain, having appeared so to the parliament

" It is certain that there was a secret and wicked design in the contrivance thereof, and it is as certain that there was a screen drawn before some gross offenders, for none were ex-

posed and punished but the *directors* and *servants* of the South Sea Company; though most thinking people believed they were but tools to others, *who were never called in question.*

"I shall not aver that any of the *Hanoverians* were in this contrivance, though many people at that time strongly suspected it, giving for their reasons that most of those people bought up stocks very early when it was low, and had the good fortune to sell out when it was *eight hundred* per cent.; few or none of them were concerned in the stock when it fell. But whether this proceeded from any foreknowledge, or from a more extensive capacity than the *English* were possessed of, it is not in this place proper for me to determine*.

"The torrent of corruption that inundated the Court when the Hanoverians alighted there,

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* "A parliamentary inquiry being instituted, it appeared that in order to procure the bill (South Sea Stock Bill), whose operations proved so ruinous to the nation, transfers of stock to an immense amount had been made to persons in high official authority, and that the fraudulent impositions of the company had been promoted by some members of the cabinet. In this nefarious charge were implicated Lord Sunderland, and Mr. Aislabie; and both were immediately disgraced."—C. Smith's England, Vol. 3, p. 122.

having infected every department of the state, and extending downwards from the Lord Chancellor to the pettiest officers, all manner of places, titles, &c being put up to sale by the Hanoverian concubines, and their male agents, disorder and disgrace arrived at its height, attracted all eyes, and some partial reform took place, when Mr Walpole, on the death of that wicked minister, the Earl of Sunderland, was placed at the helm of British affairs" Speaking of these changes, Mr Ker observes,

"So soon as this truly great minister (Walpole!), had it in his power to serve his country, he immediately, with the most prudent conduct, heroic *British* spirit, applied himself to remedy, and put a stop to the base encroachments I have mentioned, which, in all appearance, would soon have overflowed and destroyed, as they had already lessened and weakened us in the opinion of our neighbouring kingdoms and states

"The first step he made in order to accomplish this great and glorious work, was to curb and keep within bounds the insolence of foreigners, which, in a short time, through the influence of his wholesome counsel to the King, his master, he effected with a public spirit, and generous resolution, in such a manner, as there has been no need since to apply to foreigners of either sex for any favour at court, nor any farther

courtiers for their tools or brokers; which, for some time, has been a very beneficial trade to those mean spirits who would stoop to it; *then*, and not till then, began the British affairs to take quite a different aspect from what they had so lately before; *then* began the interest of Great Britain to be minded in the cabinet; its former splendour to reappear; and its power to be dreaded abroad.

"I here solemnly protest I do not mention this * with any intention of flattery, of which I think myself incapable, but from the true principle of justice, and an unfeigned sense of duty, that every *British subject, who is not biassed by* prejudice, ought to pay to faithful ministers, who deserve it so well from their King and country.

"A word or two to Great Britain, and I have done: I humbly conceive the true way to make one sensible of a deliverance from danger, and create a due thankfulness to the authors of it, is

* Some allowance must in justice be made for exulting feelings which no doubt filled the bosom of Mr. Ker, when he saw the mercenary and insolent foreigners, by whose rapacity, in common with his country, he had suffered so much, driven with ignominy from their posts at court; and as to his opinion of Walpole, the character of that man was not then fully developed.—*Ed.*

to shew the greatness of the danger they have by their means escaped.

"I believe I might have been capable to open a scene, that would have answered that end in every respect, but I desire to be excused from any part that would have given offence, which I have carefully avoided; but every judicious person, that has any memory, is capable of making such observations as well, or better than I am."

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"Now to give a *true state* of British affairs, when Sir Robert Walpole was placed at the helm, which cannot be said to be till after the death of the Earl of Sunderland, would be too dangerous a subject for the pen of any private gentleman, who has nothing but truth, and no court interest to support him against the resentments he would thereby draw on himself, and therefore I must leave the reader to his own serious review."

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"Having finished what I have to say upon the foregoing subjects, if I be called to an account for it, I am ready to undergo and submit to the will of God; and whatever my country shall determine either for or against me. *I confess the public would be at no loss if I were dead, and my memory buried in oblivion. I have seen*

too much of the villany and vanity of this world to be longer in love with it, and own myself perfectly weary of it. And though with St. Paul, I cannot wish MYSELF ACCURSED, *yet I think I have courage enough to offer up myself, as a sacrifice for the welfare of my country.*

"If I have given offence in these Memoirs, to any one of my own countrymen, I shall be sorry for it, having endeavoured their service, and not to disgust any of them by what I have written."

PART V.

FURTHER PROOFS

OF

CORRUPT PRACTICES

IN THE

COURT OF GEORGE THE FIRST.

" ROBERT WALPOLE, Esq. had got a patent for the reversion of a place in the Customs, for his son (Horace Walpole, then a child), which Robotham being informed of, told Mr Walpole he was in terms of disposing of it to another for £1500., and would let Mr. Walpole have it for the same sum if he pleased. and upon Mr. Walpole's rejecting this proposal with contempt, Robotham resented it so, that Mr. Walpole was turned out of his own public post, and of all favour at Court, even at a time when he was about to execute a generous public good, to lessen the debts of the nation!"

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"It is very well known that Mr. *Bothman* was a favourite of *the Germans;* so great a one, that the famous architect, Sir Christopher Wren, who contrived the stately edifice of St. Paul's

church, and finished it in his own time, was turned out of his employment, as being master of the King's works, which he had possessed with great reputation ever since the Restoration, to make way for this favourite of foreigners: some time afterwards, Mr. B. fell under the displeasure of the House of Lords; who thereon, in 1719, addressed the King to remove and prosecute him; and upon his Majesty's gracious answer to this complaint, he not only ordered the said Mr. B. to be removed from his employment, but prosecuted according to law. Whereupon none doubted but this gentleman was to be brought to justice accordingly. But though he was removed, instead of being prosecuted, he was presented with the wharf at Whitehall, worth yearly above £1500. for thirty years. * * * Why do not the *foreigners* gratify their *favourites* privately, so as all the world should not know it? Since they have so many means, even their privy purse in their hands? No! they are so arrogant, that a public statue must be erected, or monument, upon the ruins of what ought to be so dear to every British subject, and their authority and credit proclaimed by sound of trumpet, to let all foreign princes know, that they are the only people to apply to in *British* affairs of the utmost consequence; that they have power enough to evade even addresses of

parliament, and the KING's *most gracious answer.*"

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"*Those foreign gentry* are not contented to amass immense sums from the sale of *public posts* and *offices*, but also *from the* sale of titles of honour, as their brokers, running about to make bargains for nobility and knighthood, can testify; and I doubt not to prove that they have received considerable sums from several of our rich vain glorious subjects, for patents of honour, which they have not yet procured, as the Commissioners of Bankrupts who inspected *Sir John Hodge's* books, have found.

"*Their* avarice does not rest here, but extends to our colonies in America, where they appoint and continue some governors at pleasure, not only exacting vast sums, but likewise receiving the revenues ordered by the public to support them, and leaving the people only to the governors, to be fleeced at discretion, which occasions so many dreadful complaints as are hereinbefore mentioned." 1721.

* * * * * * *

The imprisonment and death of Mr. Ker.

In consequence of the honest counsels given to George the First by this unfortunate gentleman, he incurred *the hatred of the mistresses* and favourites of that illiberal Prince; and their

malice pursued him to a prison, and almost beyond the grave! Not only did they deprive him of the King's favour, but his justice; Mr. Ker had not only to complain of disappointed hopes, that depended on the faith of his King, but he was deprived of a debt of £3000, that he had expended in public services to smooth the way of the Elector of Hanover to the crown of Great Britain. The Duchess of Kendal opened a negociation with Mr. Ker, which ended in an ex-officio prosecution; and the law has never since been more distorted in any case to suit political views, than it was in that in which that infamous woman was plaintiff. The following letters, written by Mr. Ker just before his death, display a melancholy picture of his feelings and situation, viz.:

"TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

"MY LORD, *King's Bench, 17th June, 1726.*

"In obedience to your Lordship's warrant, I have, with the utmost integrity, informed your messenger under my hand, that the printing and publishing my Memoirs was my own act and deed, and designed solely for my own benefit.

"It is, my Lord, a duty every man owes himself, when he is to be sacrificed to injustice, to defend his innocence; and if this must be my fate, I will do my own memory justice, even be-

fore I die, in publishing the remainder of my papers.

"Before I committed them to the press, your Lordship was informed of their contents, and also of my intention of inscribing them to Sir Robert Walpole.

"I hope your Lordship will be so good as to restore the fifty copies of my book taken from *****, who is not concerned in the affair, nor any person but myself. Therefore, my Lord, returning you my thanks for former favours, and assuring myself of an honourable and just treatment from your Lordship, though weak in mind and body, but sound in mind and memory.

"I remain,

"Your Lordship's most faithful,

"and obedient Servant,

"KER, OF KERSLAND

"POSTSCRIPT.

"I hope your Lordship, in compassion to my present circumstances, *will not let me perish*, when you shall consider that I have run out all my fortune in the service of my country, and his Majesty, who, I am sure, is a stranger to the base and dishonourable treatment I have met with. I beg a speedy answer.

"His Lordship being pleased to be silent, five days after, I transmitted the other.

"To my Right Honourable Patron,
(Probably Sir Robert Walpole.)

"King's Bench, 22d June, 1726.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

"I was inclined to believe (after having signified my intentions to that purpose), that from your silence, I had your permission for addressing my Memoirs to your Honour, as they were wholly intended for the service of my country.

"Your own conduct for the nation's interest, *will, I doubt not, justify my integrity herein. But* greatly *have* I been surprised to find a warrant issued out, styling my papers seditious, and myself examined therein, and fifty copies of my book taken away, which I hope your Honour will cause to be returned to me.

"Permit me, Sir, under a double visitation of mind and body, to intreat the favour of knowing your pleasure, which is the only satisfaction desired by your Honour's unspeakably afflicted

"Humble Servant,

"*(Signed)* KER, of KERSLAND."

Within *sixteen* days of the date of this letter, namely, on the 8th July, 1726, Mr. Ker died in his confinement, aged 52 years, and was buried on the north side of St. George's church-yard,

in Southwark. George the First died about a twelvemonth after Mr. Ker, and the Duchess of Kendal, his inexorable foe, driven into a forced retirement, and unwelcome obscurity, did not long survive the victim of her malice and her crimes

PART VI.

THE PRINCESS SOPHIA DOROTHEA*.

"GEORGE the First, while Electoral Prince, had married his cousin the Princess Dorothea†, only child of the Duke of Zell; a match of convenience to re-unite the dominions of the family. Though she was very handsome, the Prince, who was extremely amorous, had several mistresses; which provocation, and his absence in the army of the confederates, probably disposed the Princess to indulge some degree of coquetry. At that moment arrived at Hanover the famous and beautiful Count Konigsmark‡, the charms of

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* From Walpole's Reminiscences.

† "Her names were Sophia Dorothea; but I call her by the latter, to distinguish her from the Princess Sophia, her mother-in-law, on whom the crown of Great Britain was settled."

‡ "Konigsmark behaved with great intrepidity, and was wounded at a bull feast in Spain. See Letters from Spain of the Comtesse Danois, vol. ii. He was brother of the beautiful Comtesse de Konigsmark, mistress of Augustus the Second, King of Poland."

whose person ought not to have obliterated the memory of his vile assassination of Mr Thynne His vanity, the beauty of the Electoral Princess, and the neglect under which he found her, encouraged his presumption to make his addresses to her, not covertly, and she, though believed not to have transgressed her duty, did receive them too indiscreetly The old Elector flamed at the insolence of so stigmatized a pretender, and ordered him to quit his dominions the next day The Princess, surrounded by women too closely connected with her husband, and consequently enemies of the lady they injured, was persuaded by them to suffer the Count to kiss her hand before his abrupt departure, and he was actually introduced by them into her bedchamber the next morning before she rose From that moment he disappeared, nor was it known what became of him, till on the death of George the First, on his son the new King's first journey to Hanover, some alterations in the palace being ordered by him, the body of Konigsmark was discovered under the floor of the Electoral Princess's dressing-room, the Count having probably been strangled there the instant he left her, and his body secreted The discovery was hushed up, George the Second intrusted the secret to his wife, Queen Caroline, who told it to my father but the King was too tender of the

honour of his mother to utter it to his mistress; nor did Lady Suffolk ever hear of it, till I informed her of it several years afterwards. The disappearance of the Count made his murder suspected, and various reports of the discovery of his body have of late years been spread, but not with the authentic circumstances.

"The Second George loved his mother as much as he hated his father, and purposed, as was said, had the former survived, to have brought her over and declared her Queen Dowager*. Lady Suffolk has told me her surprise, on going to the new Queen the morning after the news arrived of the death of George the First, at seeing hung up in the Queen's dressing-room a whole length of a lady in royal robes; and in the

* "Lady Suffolk thought he rather would have made her Regent of Hanover; and she also told me, that George the First had offered to live again with his wife, but she refused, unless her pardon were asked publicly. She said what most affected her was the disgrace that would be brought on her children; and if she were only pardoned, that would not remove it. Lady Suffolk thought she was then divorced, though the divorce was never published; and that the old Elector consented to his son's marrying the Duchess of Kendal with the left hand; but it seems strange that George the First should offer to live again with his wife, and yet be divorced from her. Perhaps George the Second, to vindicate his mother, supposed that offer, and her spirited refusal."

bed-chamber a half length of the same person, neither of which Lady Suffolk had ever seen before. The Prince had kept them concealed, not daring to produce them during the life of his father. The whole length he probably sent to Hanover*; the half length I have frequently and frequently seen in the library of the Princess Amelia, who told me it was the portrait of her grandmother. She bequeathed it, with the other pictures of her family, to her nephew, the Landgrave of Hesse.

"Of the circumstances that ensued on Konigsmark's disappearance I am ignorant; nor am I acquainted with the laws of Germany relative to divorce or separation: nor do I know or suppose

* "George the Second was scrupulously exact in separating and keeping in each country whatever belonged to England or Hanover. Lady Suffolk told me, that on his accession he could not find a knife, fork, and spoon of gold, which had belonged to Queen Anne, and which he remembered to have seen here at his first arrival. He found them at Hanover on his first journey thither after he came to the crown, and brought them back to England. He could not recollect much of greater value; for on Queen Anne's death, and in the interval before the arrival of the new family, such a clearance had been made of her Majesty's jewels, or the new King so instantly distributed what he found amongst his German favourites, that, as Lady S. told me, Queen Caroline never obtained of the late Queen's jewels but one pearl necklace."

that despotism and pride allow the law to insist on much formality when a sovereign has reason or a mind to get rid of his wife. Perhaps too much difficulty of untying the Gordian knot of matrimony thrown in the way of an absolute Prince would be no kindness to the ladies, but might prompt him to use a sharper weapon, like that butchering husband our Henry the Eighth. Sovereigns, who narrow or let out the law of God according to their prejudices and passion, mould their own laws, no doubt, to the standard of their convenience. Genealogic purity of blood is the predominant folly of Germany; and the code of Malta seems to have more force in the empire than the ten commandments.

"Thence was introduced that most absurd evasion of the indissolubility of marriage, espousals with the left hand, as if the Almighty had restrained his ordinance to one half of a man's person, and allowed a greater latitude to his left side than to his right, or pronounced the former more ignoble than the latter. The consciences both of princely and noble persons in Germany are quieted, if the more plebeian side is married to one who would degrade the more illustrious moiety—but, as if the laws of matrimony had no reference to the children to be thence propagated, the children of a left-handed alliance are not entitled to inherit. Shocking consequence of a

senseless equivocation, that only satisfies pride, not justice; and calculated for an acquittal at *the herald's office, not at the last tribunal.*

"Separated the Princess Dorothea certainly was, and never admitted even to the nominal honours of her rank, being thenceforward always styled Duchess of Halle. Whether divorced is problematic, at least to me; nor can I pronounce, as, though it was generally believed, I am not certain that George espoused the Duchess of Kendal with his left hand. As the Princess Dorothea died only some months before him, that ridiculous ceremony was scarcely deferred till then; and the extreme outward devotion of the Duchess, who every Sunday went seven times to Lutheran chapels, seemed to announce a legalized wife. As the genuine wife was always detained in her husband's power, he seems not to have wholly dissolved their union; for, on the approach of the French army towards Hanover, in Queen Anne's reign, the Duchess of Halle was sent home to her father and mother, who doated on their only child, and did retain her for a whole year, and did implore, though in vain, that she might continue to reside with them. As her son too, George the Second, had thoughts of bringing her over and declaring her Queen Dowager, one can hardly believe that a ceremonial divorce had passed, the existence of which

process would have glared in the face of her royalty. But though German casuistry might allow her husband to take another wife with his left hand, because his legal wife had suffered her right hand to be kissed in bed by a gallant, even Westphalian or Aulic counsellors could not have pronounced that such a momentary adieu constituted adultery; and therefore of a formal divorce I must doubt—and therefore I must leave that case of conscience undecided, till future search into the Hanoverian chancery shall clear up a point of little real importance. I have said that the disgraced Princess died but a short time before the King. It is known that in Queen Anne's time there was much noise about French prophets. A female of that vocation (for we know from Scripture that the gift of prophecy is not limited to one gender) warned George the First to take care of his wife, as he would not survive her a year. That oracle was probably dictated to the French Deborah by the Duke and Duchess of Zell, who might be apprehensive lest the Duchess of Kendal should be tempted to remove entirely *the obstacle to her conscientious union* with their son-in-law. Most Germans are superstitious, even such as have few other impressions of religion. George gave such credit to the denunciation, that on the eve of his last departure he took leave of his son and the

Princess of Wales with tears, telling them he should never see them more. It was certainly his own approaching fate that melted him, not the thought of quitting for ever two persons he hated. He did sometimes so much justice to his son, as to say, 'Il est fougeux, mais il a de l'honneur.' For Queen Caroline, to his confidants he termed her 'Cette diablesse madame la princesse.'

"I do not know whether it was about the same period, that in a tender mood he promised the Duchess of Kendal, that if she survived him, and it were possible for the departed to return to this world, he would make her a visit. The Duchess, on his death, so much expected the accomplishment of that engagement, that a large raven, or some black fowl, flying into one of the windows of her villa at Isleworth, she was persuaded it was the soul of her departed monarch so accoutred, and received and treated it with all the respect and tenderness of duty, till the royal bird or she took their last flight.

"George the Second, no more addicted than his father to too much religious credulity, had yet implicit faith in the German notion of vampires, and has more than once been angry with my father for speaking irreverently of those imaginary blood-suckers.

"The Duchess of Kendal, of whom I have

said so much, was, when Mademoiselle Schulemberg, maid of *honour* to the Electress Sophia, mother of King George the First, and destined by King *William* and the *Act* of Settlement to succeed Queen Anne. George fell in love with Mademoiselle Schulemberg, *though by* no means an inviting object—so little, that one evening when she was in waiting behind the Electress's chair at a ball, the Princess Sophia, who had made herself mistress of the language of her future subjects, said in English to Mrs. Howard (afterwards Countess of Suffolk) then at her Court—'Look at that mawkin, and think of her 'being *my son's passion!*' *Mrs. Howard*, who told me the story, protested she was terrified, forgetting that Mademoiselle Schulemberg did not understand English.

"The younger Mademoiselle Schulemberg, who came over with *her, and* was *created* Countess of Walsingham, passed *for her niece*; but was so like to the King, that it is not very credible that the Duchess, who had affected to pass for cruel, had waited for the left-handed marriage.

"The Duchess, under whatever denomination, had attained and preserved to the last her ascendant over the King: but notwithstanding that influence, he was not more constant to her than he had been to his avowed wife; for another ac-

knowledged mistress, whom he also brought over, was Madame Kilmansegge, Countess of Plaaten, who was created Countess of Darlington, and by whom he was indisputably father of Charlotte, married to Lord Viscount Howe, who was never publicly acknowledged as the King's daughter; but Princess Amelia treated her daughter, Mrs Howe*, upon that foot, and one evening when I was present, gave her a ring, with a small portrait of George the First, with a crown of diamonds

"Lady Darlington, whom I saw at my mother's in my infancy, and whom I remember by being terrified at her enormous figure, was as corpulent and ample as the Duchess was long and emaciated Two fierce black eyes, large and rolling, beneath two lofty arched eye-brows, two acres of cheeks spread with crimson, an ocean of neck that overflowed, and was not distinguished from the lower part of her body, and no part restrained by stays;—no wonder that a child dreaded such an ogress, and that the mob of London were highly diverted at the importation of so uncommon a seraglio! They were food for all the venom of the jacobites, and indeed nothing could

* Caroline the eldest of Lady Howe's children had married a gentleman of her own name, John Howe, Esq of Hanslop, in the county of Bucks

be grosser than the ribaldry that was vomited out in lampoons, libels, and every channel of abuse, against the Sovereign and the new Court, and chanted even in their hearing about the public streets*. On the other hand, it was not till the last year or two of his reign, that their foreign Sovereign paid the nation the compliment of taking openly an English mistress. That personage was Anne Brett, eldest daughter by her second husband of the repudiated wife of the Earl of Macclesfield, the unnatural mother of Savage the poet.

"Miss Brett was very handsome, but dark enough by her eyes, complexion, and hair, for a Spanish beauty. Abishag was lodged in the palace under the eyes of Bathsheba, who seemed to maintain her power, as other favourite sultanas have done, by suffering partners in the Sovereign's affections. When his Majesty should return to England, a Countess's coronet was to have rewarded the young lady's compliance, and

* "One of the German ladies being abused by the mob, was said to have put her head out of the coach, and cried, in bad English—'Good people, why you abuse us? We come for all 'your goods.'—'Yes, damn ye,' answered a fellow in the crowd, 'and for all our chattels too.' I mention this, because, on the death of Princess Amelia, the newspapers revived the story and told it of her, though I had heard it threescore years before, of one of her grandfather's mistresses."

marked her secondary rank. She might, however, have proved a troublesome rival, as she seemed so confident of the power of her charms, that, whatever predominant ascendant the Duchess might retain, her own authority in the palace she thought was to yield to no one else. George the First, when his son, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess, had quitted St. James's, on their quarrel with him, had kept back their three eldest daughters, who lived with him to his death, even after there had outwardly been a reconciliation between the King and Prince. Miss Brett, when the King set out, ordered a door to be broken out of her apartment into the royal garden. Anne, the eldest of the Princesses, offended at that freedom, and not choosing such a companion in her walks, ordered the door to be walled up again. Miss Brett as imperiously reversed that command. The King died suddenly, and the empire of the new mistress, and her promised coronet, vanished. She afterwards married Sir William Leman, and was forgotten before her reign had transpired beyond the confines of Westminster!"

PART VII.

QUARREL

BETWEEN

GEORGE THE FIRST AND HIS SON,

AFTERWARDS

GEORGE THE SECOND.

(Related by Walpole.)

" ONE of the most remarkable occurrences in the reign of George the First, was the open quarrel between him and his son, the Prince of Wales. When the dissension originated, whether the Prince's attachment to his mother embittered his mind against his father, or whether hatred of his father occasioned his devotion to her, I do not pretend to know. I do suspect from circumstances, that the hereditary enmity in the House of Brunswick between the parents and their eldest sons, dated earlier than the divisions between the first two Georges.

" The Princess Sophia was a woman of parts and great vivacity: in the earlier part of her life she had professed much zeal for the deposed House of Stuart, as appeared by a letter of her's in print, addressed, I think, to the Cheva-

her de St George It is natural enough for all Princes, who have no prospect of being benefited by the deposition of a crowned head, to choose to think royalty an indelible character The Queen of Prussia, daughter of George the First, lived and died an avowed Jacobite

" The Princess Sophia, youngest child of the Queen of Bohemia, was consequently the most remote from any pretensions to the British crown*, but no sooner had King William procured a settlement of it after Queen Anne on her Electoral Highness, than nobody became a stauncher Whig than the Princess Sophia, nor could be more impatient to mount the throne of the expelled Stuarts

" It is certain, that during the reign of Anne, the Elector George was inclined to the Tories; though, after his mother's death, and his own accession, he gave himself to the opposite party

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* " It is remarkable, that either the weak propensity of the Stuarts to popery, or the visible connexion between regal and ecclesiastical power, had such operation on many of the branches of that family, who were at a distance from the crown of England, to wear which it is necessary to be a Protestant, that two or three of the daughters of the King and Queen of Bohemia, though their parents had lost every thing in the struggle between the two religions, turned Roman Catholics, and so did one or more of the sons of the Princess Sophia, brothers of the Protestant candidate, George the First "

But if he and his mother espoused different factions, Sophia found a ready partisan in her grandson, the Electoral Prince; and it is true, that the demand made by the Prince of his writ of summons to the House of Lords as Duke of Cambridge, which no wonder was so offensive to Queen Anne, was made in concert with his grandmother, without the privity of the Elector his father. Were it certain, as was believed, that Bolingbroke and the Jacobites prevailed on the Queen* to consent to her brother coming secretly to England, and to seeing him in her closet; she might have been induced to that step, when provoked by an attempt to force a distant and foreign heir upon her while still alive.

"The Queen and her heiress being dead, the new King and his son came over in apparent harmony; and on his Majesty's first visit to his electoral dominions, the Prince of Wales was even left Regent; but never being trusted afterwards with that dignity on like occasions, it is probable that the son discovered too much fond-

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* "I believe it was a fact, that the poor weak Queen, being disposed even to cede the crown to her brother, consulted Bishop Wilkins, called the Prophet, to know what would be the consequence of such a step. He replied, 'Madam, you 'would be in the Tower in a month, and dead in three.'—This sentence, dictated by common sense, her Majesty took for inspiration, and dropped all thoughts of resigning the crown."

ness for acting the King, or that the father conceived a jealousy of his having done so Sure it is, that on the King's return, great divisions arose in the Court, and the Whigs were divided—some devoting themselves to the wearer of the Crown, and others to the expectant I shall not enter into the detail of those squabbles, of which I am but superficially informed The predominant ministers were the Earls of Sunderland and Stanhope The brothers-in-law, the Viscount Townshend, and Mr Robert Walpole, adhered to the Prince Lord Sunderland is said to have too much resembled, as a politician, the Earl his father, who was so principal an actor in the reign of James the Second, and in bringing about the revolution Between the Earl in question and the Prince of Wales grew mortal antipathy, of which an anecdote, told me by my father himself, will leave no doubt When a reconciliation had been patched up between the two Courts, and my father became first Lord of the Treasury a second time, Lord Sunderland in a tête-à-tête with him, said, 'Well, Mr Walpole, we have settled matters for the present, but we must think whom we will have next,' (meaning in case of the King's demise) Walpole replied, 'Your lordship may think as you please, but my part is taken,' meaning to support the established settlement

"Earl Stanhope was a man of strong and violent passions, and had dedicated himself to the army; and was so far from thinking of any other line, that when Walpole, who first suggested the idea of appointing him Secretary of State, proposed it to him, he flew into a furious rage, and was on the point of a downright quarrel, looking on himself as totally unqualified for the post, and suspecting it for a plan of mocking him. He died in one of those tempestuous sallies, being pushed in the House of Lords on the explosion of the South Sea scheme. That iniquitous affair, which Walpole had early exposed, and to remedy the mischiefs of which he alone was deemed adequate, had replaced him at the head of affairs, and obliged Sunderland to submit to be only a coadjutor of the administration.

"The younger Craggs*, a showy vapouring man, had been brought forward by the ministers to oppose Walpole; but was soon reduced to beg his assistance on one† of their ways and means. Craggs caught his death by calling at the gate of Lady March‡, who was ill of the small pox; and being told so by the porter, went home di-

* "James Craggs, jun. buried in Westminster Abbey, with an epitaph by Pope."

† "I think it was the sixpenny tax on offices."

‡ "Sarah Cadogan, afterwards Duchess of Richmond."

rectly, fell ill of the same distemper, and died. His father, the elder Craggs, whose very good sense Sir R Walpole very much admired, soon followed his son, and his sudden death was imputed to grief, but having been deeply dipped in the iniquities of the South Sea, and wishing to prevent confiscation, and save his ill-acquired wealth for his daughters, there was no doubt of his having dispatched himself. When his death was divulged, Sir Robert owned that the unhappy man had in an oblique manner hinted his resolution to him.

"The reconciliation of the royal family was so *little cordial, that I question whether the Prince* did not resent Sir Robert Walpole's return to the King's service.

"Yet had Walpole defeated a plan of Sunderland's, that would in futurity have exceedingly *hampered* the *successor*, as it was calculated to do, nor do I affect to ascribe Sir Robert's victory directly to zeal for the Prince, personal and just views prompted his opposition; and the Commoners of England were not less indebted to *him* than the Prince Sunderland had devised a bill to restrain the crown from ever adding above six peers to a number limited*. The actual Peers

* "Queen Anne's creation of twelve peers at once, to obtain a majority in the House of Lords, offered an ostensible plea for the restriction"

were far from disliking the measure: but Walpole, taking fire, instantly communicated his dissatisfaction to all the great Commoners, who might for ever be excluded from the peerage. He spoke, he wrote, he persuaded, so that the bill was rejected by the Commons with disdain, after it had passed the House of Lords.

"But the hatred of some of the junto at Court had gone farther, horridly farther. On the death of George the First, Queen Caroline found in his cabinet a proposal of the Earl Berkeley*, then, I think, first Lord of the Admiralty, to seize the Prince of Wales, and convey him to America, whence he should never be heard of more. This detestable project, copied probably from the Earl of Falmouth's offer to Charles the Second, with regard to his Queen, was in the hand-writing of Charles Stanhope, elder brother of the Earl of Harrington†; and so deep was the impression deservedly made on the mind of George the Second by that abominable paper, that all the favour of Lord Harrington, when Secretary of State, could never obtain the smallest boon to his brother, though but the subordinate transcriber. George the First was too humane to listen to

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* "James Berkeley, Earl of Berkeley, Knight of the Garter, &c."

† "William Stanhope, first Earl of Harrington of that family."

such an atrocious deed. It was not very kind to the conspirators to leave such an instrument behind him,—and if virtue and conscience will not check bold, bad men from paying court by detestable offers, the King's carelessness or indifference in such an instance, ought to warn them of the little gratitude that such machinations can inspire or expect.

"Among those who had preferred the service of the King to that of the heir apparent, was the Duke of Newcastle*, who, having married his sister to Lord Townshend, both his Royal Highness and the Viscount had expected would have adhered to that connexion—and neither forgave his desertion. I am aware of the desultory manner in which I have told my story, having mentioned the reconciliation of the King and Prince, before I have given any account of their public rupture.

"The chain of my thoughts led me into the preceding details, and, if I do not flatter myself, will have let you into the motives of my *dramatis personæ*, better than if I had more exactly ob-

* "Thomas Holles Pelham, Duke of Newcastle [illegible] berlain, then Secretary of State, and lastly [illegible] Treasury under George the Second, the same [illegible] he had been so obnoxious in the preced[illegible] obliged by George the Third to [illegible]

served chronology; and as I am not writing a regular tragedy, and profess but to relate facts as I recollect them; or (if you will allow me to imitate French writers of tragedy), may I not plead that I have unfolded my piece as they do, by introducing two courtiers to acquaint one another, and by *bricole* the audience, with what had passed in the penetralia before the tragedy commences?

"The exordium thus duly prepared, you must suppose, ladies, that the second act opens with a royal christening. The Princess of Wales had been delivered of a second son. The Prince had intended his uncle, the Duke of York, Bishop of Osnaburg, should, with his Majesty, be godfathers.

"Nothing could equal the indignation of his Royal Highness, when the King named the Duke of Newcastle for second sponsor, and would hear of no other. The christening took place as usual in the Princess's bed-chamber.

"Lady Suffolk, then in waiting as woman of the bed-chamber, and of most accurate memory, painted the scene to me exactly.

"On one side of the bed stood the godfathers and godmother; on the other side the Prince and the Princess's ladies. No sooner had the Bishop closed the ceremony, than the Prince, crossing the feet of the bed in a rage, stepped

up to the Duke of Newcastle, and holding up his hand and fore-finger in a menacing attitude, said, 'You are a rascal, but I shall find you;' meaning, in broken English, 'I shall find a time to be revenged*.'

" 'What was my astonishment,' continued Lady Suffolk, 'when going to the Princess's apartment the next morning, the yeomen in the guard chamber pointed their halberds at my breast, and told me I must not pass!' I urged that it was my duty to attend the Princess. They said, No matter, I must not pass that way!'

" In one word, the King had been so provoked at the Prince's outrage in his presence, that it had been determined to inflict a still greater insult on his Royal Highness. *His* threat to the Duke was pretended to be understood as a challenge; and to prevent a duel, he

* Horace Walpole could never forgive the opposition his father, Sir Robert Walpole, experienced from the Prince, who was the principal cause of his fall in 1742 This celebrated writer had not magnanimity to do justice to a political enemy, on the contrary, he omitted no opportunity of aspersing his motives, and holding his character up to the scorn of posterity, as an undutiful son, a bad father, and a false friend With all his faults, he was a far better patriot than the elegant trifler who has so mercilessly assailed his memory in these *Reminiscences*.—*Ed.*

had actually been put under arrest, as if a Prince of Wales could stoop to fight with a subject. The arrest was soon taken off; but at night the Prince and Princess were ordered to leave the palace, and retired to the house of her chamberlain, the Earl of Grantham, in Albemarle Street."

PART VIII.

GEORGE THE FIRST,

AND

HIS COURT *.

"ALTHOUGH the Elector of Hanover had long been in view of the British throne, he received the news of his accession with little emotion, and without betraying the least impatience to take possession of the vacant throne.

"George the First was the son of Princess Sophia, who had lately died in the 85th year of her age: a woman of talents and ambition, who had cultivated an intimacy with many English persons of distinction, and by the elegance and amenity of her manners, had inspired in them sentiments of respect and attachment. George the First possessed a sound understanding, little improved by study; he was a stranger to the fine arts, and for polite literature felt only indifference and contempt. He spoke English ill, and with reluctance; neither his figure nor his

* Smith's History of England.

countenance was prepossessing; his stature was low, his features coarse, his aspect dull and placid. His wife, the Princess of Zell, was still living; but having incurred suspicions injurious to her husband's honour, had long been proscribed the Electoral Court, and lived in captivity rather than retirement, under the name of the *Duchess of Halle.* The Electoral Prince (afterwards George the Second), now become Prince of Wales, possessed some advantages over his father: though remarkably short, he was well proportioned, and had rather a pleasing countenance: he spoke English, but, as Lord Orford observes, with the bluff Westphalian accent."

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"The importation of the German Court occasioned much amusement to the public. The King (George the First), had selected for his favourite mistress, one of his mother's maids of honour, Mademoiselle Schuylemberg, known in England as Duchess of Kendal."

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"The Duchess was a grave, decorous character, strongly addicted to superstition; and so strict in her observance of public worship, that she attended a Lutheran chapel seven times every Sunday! In her person she was the reverse of his Majesty, being tall, lean, and ill-

favoured Even in her youth, the homeliness of her features attracted notice, and the Electress Sophia ridiculed (to use her own words), the '*malkin*,' so much distinguished by her son.

"The absence of female charms was not supplied to the Duchess by any extraordinary mental endowments; she possessed neither wit nor animation, and was as destitute of information as of elegance.

"Her rapacity for peculation was inextinguishable; her soul was completely venal, and it was said of her, that she would have sold the King's honour for a shilling.

"Subservient to the Duchess, was the Countess of Darlington*, whose remains of beauty were yet discernible through the unsightly disguise of enormous corpulence. Like the Duchess, she possessed no quality so eminently as avarice, but her influence being less operative, her venality was not equally notorious. In addition to *these ladies*, the King was attended by *three Hanoverian confidants*, namely, Bothman, Bernstorff, and Robotham, all men of more cunning

* This infamous woman was the sister of Countess Von Plaaten, the wife of the chief minister of the Elector Ernest Augustus, *Plaaten's wife* was the Elector's favourite mistress, *whilst the sister* served as mistress to the son! Such *was* the Court of Hanover!!!—*Ed*

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"At an early epoch of the present reign (George the First), the mutual aversion of the King and Prince of Wales, was apparent: during his Majesty's first visit to Hanover, the administration had been intrusted to the Prince, who, by his judicious conduct, having acquired general esteem and affection, became the object of his father's jealousy and abhorrence. He had ever been hostile to the Princess (Caroline), whose talents he both feared and detested: from this moment he regarded his son, for whom he never felt affection, with the most unnatural and inveterate hatred."

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"Such was the King's invincible antipathy towards his son, that he is even affirmed to have entered into intrigues for his exclusion from the throne; and we have the evidence of Mr. Coxe and the late Lord Orford for believing that after his death, certain papers were found in his cabinet, containing the rough draught of a plan submitted to his examination, for conveying the Prince to the plantations. The difficulties with which this plan was pregnant, have given the relation an air of improbability, which renders it scarcely credible."

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the Second) betrayed a callousness of heart, revolting to nature, and a groveling suspicion, disgraceful to a manly character. His administration was commonly judicious, regulated by the habitual apathy of his temper, which was only animated when some extraordinary object became predominant." * * *
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"His persevering solicitude to obtain the investiture of Bremen and Verden, must ever be considered as the puerile vagaries of dotage rather than the suggestions of sound and liberal policy. Amongst the personal qualities of this Prince should be included his habits of order and regularity, and his strict attention to economy: but though frugal in his expenditures, he connived at the profligate venality of his favourites; and the immense debts repeatedly accumulated on the civil list, reflected little credit on his discretion or integrity*."

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* "The Duchess of Kendal, the faithful companion of George the First, was on her journey from Delden, when the courier arrived from Osnaburg with the fatal news of the King's death. Her grief was violent, and probably sincere: the Duchess, too sensible that her importance must expire with the King's reign, dismissed her ladies, and proceeded privately to Brunswick, where she solemnly indulged her sorrows in retirement."

"I believe you will not be sorry to exchange the consideration of treaties and negociations, for the interesting memoirs of an amiable, an unfortunate, and much injured woman—Sophia Dorothea, of Zell, wife of George the First, who died in confinement, in 1725. Her death was announced to the Court of St. James's, as that of the Duchess Dowager of Hanover: no notice was taken of the event, and a cloud of mystery still hung over her memory and her fame; but time has redeemed both from obloquy; and this Princess, whose fate was long involved in impenetrable obscurity, is now the object of respectful commiseration.

"Sophia Dorothea, the only child of William, Duke of Zell, and *Eleanor d'Elmiers*, was married at sixteen to George Lewis, then Electoral Prince of Hanover, afterwards George the First. Possessing many personal and mental endowments, she might have attached any man whose character *was sufficiently refined to have appreciated her rare endowments:* such was not the Prince (her husband), who, abandoning his beautiful wife and two children, solaced himself with the society of a mistress more congenial to his temper and taste. The conduct of Sophia was still unblemished—nor could envy sully her reputation with a single reproach, till the arrival of Count Konigsmark in Ha-

nover, during the absence of her neglectful consort. This Count was brother to the celebrated beauty of that name, so long the object of fond attachment to Augustus, Elector of Saxony, eventually King of Poland*. Nature had been scarcely less liberal to his person, than to that of his accomplished sister; and previous to Sophia's marriage, he had avowed for her a passion, of which she had not been insensible. On the renewal of their acquaintance, he resumed those attentions, which were still remembered with too much tenderness; and from the vanity prevalent in the Count's character, he was readily disposed to promise himself complete success: and the evident pleasure which the princess found in his company, induced the court to believe that his presumptuous hopes were not ill-founded. Ernest Augustus, the reigning Elector, was soon apprized of the attachment between the Count and his daughter-in-law; and so instigated by the malicious mis-

* This colossal voluptuary was one of the most depraved of mankind, as respected his amours. He spared no means to satisfy his libidinous inclinations: *his own sister* became one of his concubines; and the infamy of his principles was fully proved, by his having first tempted, and then betrayed Count Konigsmark's indiscreet allusions at his table, to the Elector of Hanover.—*Ed.*

representations of his own mistress, the Countess of Staten (Platen), he caused the lovers to be closely *watched*, and one night, as the Count was returning from the palace, he was assassinated, in the presence of the Elector Sophia was arrested, and the relation of her supposed infidelity transmitted to her husband, who not *unwillingly admitted her guilt*, and *left her to* the mercy of his implacable father In vain did Sophia reiterate her protestations of her innocence *no direct proofs could be produced against her, but such unfavourable circumstances had occurred, as were capable of any interpretation, which might be suggested by malice, or adopted by prejudice She was alone, in a profligate court, where virtue had no advocate, and misfortune no friend Her conduct was examined only by her adversaries, from whom no compassion was to be expected, no justice obtained* The Ecclesiastical court (of Hanover) *granted** her husband a divorce, and sentence of imprisonment was pronounced against her Sophia was hurried from the

* Mrs Smith forgot she was writing of a country where the most unqualified despotism prevailed where the will of the sovereign formed or destroyed the law, and where the clergy were as servile and abject as their prince was rude and vicious —*Ed*

palace to the dreary castle of Aller, in the duchy of Zell. In aggravation of her afflictions, it appears probable that the artful emissaries of Ernest Augustus, had even impressed her father's mind with an opinion of her guilt. No efforts were made for her emancipation, no period was assigned for her captivity. *Under this dreadful dereliction of friends, relatives, and connexions**, Sophia's mind collected all its strength, and enabled her to support, with magnanimous fortitude, a fate of unexampled rigour. Her deportment was ever dignified and mild; her meekness was ennobled by benevolence; her resignation fortified by piety; every week she received the sacrament, constantly protesting her innocence: of her innocence, however, none would venture to speak during her husband's life; but after his death it was discovered that she had been the victim *of the Countess of Plaaten, and the imprudence* of Count Konigsmark.

"George the Second, who adored his mother's

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* If the dates of the publications did not prove their age, any ordinary reader, perusing these traits of brutality on the part of the husband, and of suffering on the part of the wife, might readily suppose they were similies and allusions, bearing upon living characters and passing events.—*Ed.*

memory, once crossed the river Aller*, which flowed close to the castle: but Sophia had not the consolation to embrace her son: the Prince was discovered, and all access denied by the attendants. It was the firm persuasion of this Prince, that his mother had been unjustly aspersed; and his constant intention, whenever he should succeed to the crown, to do her justice. Of this satisfaction he was disappointed by her death: but he ever cherished the most filial sentiments of affection for her memory."

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"It is probable that the King received the news of his wife's death with some feelings of compunction and remorse. It has been pretended that he was not without superstitious presages of his own impending dissolution; having been assured by a female seer that he should not long survive his wife †. Such superstition as this was not singular in that age; it was a common feature of resemblance between the highest and lowest individuals of society.

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* This anecdote is indistinctly given; which is a pity, it being so very interesting. If it happened at all, it was, in all probability, before the accession of the ruthless man to the throne of England.—*Ed.*

† Perhaps this was a humane device of some compassionate woman, to save the life of his lovely and unhappy consort.—*Ed.*

"The fanciful speculations of judicial astrologers had still some defenders amongst the learned: and sorcery was a crime to which the vulgar attached ideas of terror and abhorrence."

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PART IX

SOME ACCOUNT

OF

FREDERICK PRINCE OF WALES,

FATHER OF HIS LATE MAJESTY, GEORGE THE THIRD*

THE Prince remained a bachelor for some years He lived a quiet English life, and was not unobservant of the politics of the day The King and Queen Caroline generally passed the summer months at Richmond, and the Prince, who admired the scenery in that vicinity, in the year 1730, took a long lease of Kew House, from the Capel family, the fee of which was many years afterwards purchased from the Countess Dowager of Essex, by George the Third. Here he began those pleasure

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* The substance of the following memoir of Prince Frederick is principally taken from the Anecdotes of George the Third, his Court, and Family.

grounds, which were not completed until after his demise, by the Princess Dowager; and since increased in size by their union with Richmond Gardens.

That the Prince, even at this early period, was not inattentive to public affairs, is proved by an anecdote, which states, that from various causes, at the beginning of his father's reign, the money appropriated for the payment of the royal household expences, and servants' wages, was made use of for other purposes; till by degrees, instead of being paid punctually every quarter, they at last became two years in arrear; the consequences of which were, that many persons being obliged to borrow at very large premiums, were entirely ruined; others were in continual danger of being thrown into prison; while the King himself was served with the worst of every thing!

One day at dinner, the King complaining to the Prince of the badness of the provisions, his Royal Highness caught at the opportunity, and acquainted the Monarch with the distressed situation of his tradesmen and domestics; adding, that if his Majesty should die, they would certainly lose all that was due to them. The King was astonished, and expressed equal concern, surprise and anger; and instantly spoke to Sir Robert Walpole, then

prime minister, on the subject, insisting that a speedy method should be taken to clear off the whole of the arrears. The consequence of this was, Walpole brought a bill into Parliament for making good the deficiencies of the civil list; soon after which all the arrears were paid, and a system adopted, by means of which regular payments always took place, at the close of each quarter; so that on the royal demise the current debts were only of a trifling amount during the broken quarter.

Even at this early period, the Prince was looked up to as a patron of literature; and in 1732, Tindal having dedicated to him his edition of Rapin, his Royal Highness sent that gentleman a gold medal, worth forty guineas, as a mark of distinction and of future favour.

It has been said that the manner of the great Duke of Marlborough was so engaging, that he made as many friends by refusing favours as by granting them; how far this was applicable to the parent of our revered monarch, may be inferred from the following anecdote:

A clause relative to the Quakers, in the Tithing Bill, being in agitation in the House of Commons, in 1735, a deputation from them waited on his Royal Highness, to solicit his interest in favour of that clause. His answer

was every way worthy of his high character: 'That, as a friend to liberty in general, and 'toleration in particular, he wished that they 'might meet with all proper favour; but, for 'himself, he never gave his vote in parliament, 'and it did not become his station to influence 'his friends, or direct his servants; to leave them 'entirely to their own conscience and under-'standing, was a rule he had hitherto prescrib-'ed to himself, and purposed through his whole 'life to observe.'

Andrew Pitt, the person who spoke in the name of the body, made the following reply, which was not less remarkable: 'May it please 'the Prince of Wales, I am greatly affected with 'thy excellent notions of liberty; and am more 'pleased with thy answer, than if thou hadst 'granted to us our request.'

It has been reported that the Prince, about this time of his life, did not disdain to be an author; and Seward, in his Anecdotes, has asserted that he was a great reader of French Memoirs, and actually wrote the 'History of Prince Titi,' in imitation of them. Not however trusting to his own critical knowledge of the English language, he gave it to Ralph, the historian, to correct; but that gentleman died before the completion of his task, and this book being found amongst his papers by one of his executors, was printed in

1736; a copy appeared in Paris the same year, but some think the French really was the original.

"The Prince's union with the Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, born in 1719, took place in 1736; the particulars of which may serve as an illustration of the times.

"Her Highness arrived in the William and Mary yacht at Greenwich, on Sunday, April 25, 1736, and landing at the Hospital, was conducted in one of his Majesty's coaches, by Lord Delawar, to the Queen's house in the park, amidst the acclamations of thousands of spectators. Her Highness seemed highly delighted with the joy the people expressed at her arrival, and had the goodness to shew herself for above half an hour from the gallery towards the park.

"The Prince of Wales came to pay her a visit; and their Majesties, the Duke, and Princesses, sent their compliments. Monday, 26th.—The Prince of Wales dined with her Highness at Greenwich, in one of the rooms towards the park, the windows being thrown open, to oblige the curiosity of the people. His Royal Highness afterwards gave her the diversion of passing on the water as far as the Tower and back again, in his barge, finely adorned, and preceded by a concert of music The ships saluted their Highnesses all the way they passed, and hung out

their streamers and colours, and the river was covered with boats. Their Highnesses afterwards supped in public. Tuesday, 27th.—Her Highness came in his Majesty's coach from Greenwich to Lambeth, crossed the water at Lambeth, and was brought in the Queen's chair, from Whitehall to St. James's, where was a numerous and splendid court beyond expression.

"The Prince of Wales received her at the garden-door; and upon her sinking on her knee to kiss his hand, he affectionately raised her up, and twice saluted her. His Royal Highness led her up stairs to their Majesties' apartments, where presenting her to the King, her Highness fell on her knee to kiss his hand, but was gently taken up and saluted by him.

"Her Highness was then presented to the Queen in like manner, and afterwards to the Duke and Princesses, who congratulated her on her arrival. Her Highness dined with the Prince of Wales and the Princesses. At eight the procession to the chapel commenced, and the joining of hands was proclaimed to the people by firing guns. Her Highness was in her hair, wearing a crown with one bar as Princess of Wales, and set all over with diamonds. Her robe likewise, as Princess of Wales, being of crimson velvet, turned back with several rows of ermine, and having her train supported by Lady Caroline Lenox, daugh-

ter to his Grace the Duke of Richmond, Lady Caroline Fitzroy, daughter to his Grace the Duke of Grafton, Lady Caroline Cavendish, daughter to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire; and Lady Sophia Fermor, daughter to the Earl of Pomfret· all of whom were in virgin habits of silver like the Princess, and adorned with diamonds, not less in value than from twenty to thirty thousand pounds each Her Highness was led by his Royal Highness the Duke, and conducted by his Grace the Duke of Grafton, Lord Chamberlain of the Household, and the Lord Hervey, Vice-Chamberlain; and attended by the Countess of Effingham, and the other ladies of the household. The marriage service was read by the Lord Bishop of London, Dean of the Chapel, and after the same was over, a fine anthem was performed by a great number of voices and instruments When the procession returned, his Royal Highness *led his bride*, *and coming into the drawing*-room, their Royal Highnesses kneeled down and received their Majesties' blessing.

"At half an hour after ten, their Majesties sat down to supper in *ambigu*, the Prince and Duke being on the King's right hand, and the Princess of Wales and the four Princesses on the Queen's left Their Majesties retiring to the apartments of the Prince of Wales, the bride was conducted to her bed-chamber, and the bridegroom to his

dressing-room, where the Duke undressed him, and his Majesty did his Royal Highness the honour to put on his shirt. The bride was undressed by the Princesses, and being in bed in a rich undress, his Majesty came into the room, and the Prince following soon after in a night-gown of silver stuff, and cap of the finest lace; the quality were admitted to see the bride and bridegroom sitting up in bed, surrounded by the royal family. His Majesty was dressed in a gold brocade turned up with silk, embroidered with large flowers in silver and colours, as was the waistcoat: the buttons and star were diamonds.

"Her Majesty was in a plain yellow silk, robed and faced with pearls, diamonds, and other jewels of immense value. The Dukes of Grafton, Newcastle, and St. Albans, the Earl of Albemarle, Lord Hervey, Colonel Pelham, and many other noblemen, were in gold brocades of three to five hundred pounds per suit. The Duke of Marlborough was in a white velvet and gold brocade, upon which was an exceedingly rich point d'Espagne; the Earl of Euston and many others were in clothes flowered or sprigged with gold; the Duke of Montagu in a gold brocaded tissue. The waistcoats were universally brocades, with large flowers. It was observed, most of the rich clothes were the manufacture of England; and,

in honour of our artists, the few which were French did not come up to those in richness, goodness, or fancy, as were seen by the clothes worn by the royal family, which were all of British manufacture. The cuffs of the sleeves were universally deep and open, the waists long, and the plaits more sticking out than ever. The ladies were principally in brocades of gold and silver, and wore their sleeves much lower than had been done for some time."

The following is an extract from one of Walpole's letters to a friend, 'I believe the Princess will have more beauties bestowed on her by the occasional poets, than even a painter would afford her. They will cook up a new Pandora, and in the bottom of the box enclose Hope, that all they have said is true.' In another he mentions, that Lord Baltimore made a whimsical mistake in speaking to the Prince on his marriage. 'Sir, your Royal Highness's marriage will form a new *area* in the history of England.'

It is also very well worth recording, that the first speech ever made in parliament by the illustrious Pitt, the first Earl of Chatham, was to second an address, moved by Lord (then Mr.) Lyttelton, *congratulatory on the* marriage *of the Prince of* Wales.

In the month of August the unhappy *fracas* took place between the King and

the Prince of Wales; the former had for some time looked coldly on his son, in consequence of a parliamentary motion by Mr. Pulteney, during the preceding session, for increasing the heir-apparent's income to £100,000; his Majesty suspected that the Prince favoured the opposition, and that he was forming connexions unfavourable to the existing ministry.

The selections being thus brought down from the death of the Princess Sophia Dorothea, to that of Frederick, Prince of Wales, the following portion of the work, which is entirely ORIGINAL, will display the history of the YOUTH of GEORGE the THIRD, and develop the secret springs of those events, which so greatly affected the mind of that monarch; and led to those distressing and disgraceful transactions, which at this moment shake the pillars of the throne, and menace the tranquillity of the country.

PART X.

ORIGINAL

CHARACTERISTICAL TRAITS

OF THE

YOUTH OF GEORGE THE THIRD.

An ancient Scotch gardener, now in the eighty-ninth year of his age, whose eye-sight and memory are almost unimpaired, and his *strength such as enables him still to work at his* healthy calling, was employed in Prince Frederick's gardens at Kew, some years previous to his lamented death. According to the picture drawn of that Prince by this veteran, he was one of the most generous, indulgent, and humane of masters. Far from displaying that false dignity, which so often keeps the *little great* at a distance from their indigent fellow-creatures, it appears to have been a maxim with that benevolent Prince, to consider that he who is born to rule a nation, should be most intimately acquainted with its taste, genius, manners, and customs. Whether he regarded his marriage

with the Princess of Saxe Gotha as a *sacrifice* made to the welfare of the state, or that Mr. Bubb Doddington, for some secret and sinister purpose of his own, interpolated that declaration in his 'Diary'; according to this old Scotchman's declaration, the parents of George the Third lived together in the most perfect and unbroken state of domestic harmony. He has often seen Prince Frederick, with all the alacrity of youth, enter into the sports of his playful children. The summer before his death, he played a match at *trap-ball* in Kew Gardens, against his two sons, George and Edward; when George, *suspecting his father had counted too many*, called upon the gardener for his testimony, who gave it against his royal master. "There's a guinea for your honesty," said Frederick: "now play away, my boy George," continued he, "and I'll soon beat you and Ned, to your heart's content, and without cheating!"

The Princess, Lady Middlesex, and several of the royal children, were seated under a marquèe, delighted with the contest, when victory rested with the youthful pair, in defiance of the utmost efforts of their parent, at whom the ladies laughed most heartily. Another gardener, named John Lowe, who was born at Kintor, in North Britain, who is yet active (Feb. 1820), healthy, and also blessed with unimpaired sight and

memory, resides at Stoke Newington. This man also retains the most vivid and perfect recollection of Frederick, Prince of Wales; and Lowe's narration fully corroborates that of his senior countryman. He describes Prince Frederick as taking the utmost pains to render his '*boy George*' less reserved and bashful, than he seemed naturally inclined to be, and represented the latter, in his twelfth year, to have been tall, well grown, a good-looking, but not an elegant-made boy. His hair, that was very light flaxen colour, and of profuse growth, he wore in large ringlets on the temples, turned up in front, and tied with a ribbon behind. A strong family resemblance, existing in a particular cast of countenance, ran through the whole of the children; and that of Prince George was very particularly marked by his high retreating forehead, large mouth, and thick lips. He wore, at this period, frilled shirts, tied with a black ribbon. His complexion was uncommonly fair and florid; but he was rather in-kneed, which was imputed to his rapid growth. He describes his dress as being plainer than that of the children of opulent and dashing tradesmen; his manners as very gentle; his temper mild and even, seldom given to anger, but, when offended, slow to forget. Prince Frederick, his father, was passionately

fond of rural life; and when at Kew, he spent much of his time in the gardens and pleasure grounds: but he was seldom seen without one or more of his children with him; and when the hay harvest came on, he used to indulge them in all manner of innocent freedom, suffering them to pile the hay upon him in heaps, and give the fullest scope to their love of such harmless sports. Such were then *the diversions at Kew!*

It was a standing rule at Kew (Cliefden), that none of the Prince's labourers, gardeners, or tradesmen, were to move their hats to himself, his Princess, or his family, except spoken to; and then, never to use any other appellatives than Sir, or Madam, to the Prince and Princess, and Master or Miss, to the royal children. The young Princes would sometimes take up the gardeners' tools, and try to imitate their work; when their father used to make them pay a forfeit, called '*their footing,*' of a crown, to the men. He frequently unbent himself by such recreations; and when he had been detained in London two or three days, he used to say in the hearing of Lowe, that he would not be confined to live always there for any possible gain; and often expressed his amazement at people dwelling in such crowded places, in an atmosphere full of coal smoke, to gain money, whilst the sulphur

they swallowed, destroying their health, shortened their lives, and prevented them from enjoying their treasures after they were gained.

Frederick, Prince of Wales, did not pay his work-people higher wages than *his neighbours*, the farmers or master gardeners; but he took care *to see* that they had a moderate plenty of very excellent beer, and *frequent distributions* of cold meat, bread and *cheese*, and *in winter*, clothes and fuel. *He was particularly partial to* those of his workmen, *who would answer his* questions in a plain, *respectful, easy*, and unlaboured manner, *free from embarrassment*. After he had *become acquainted*, as he called it, with his work-people, he would take his son and daughter to their cottages, and make them converse with their wives and children; *giving* them money or toys to distribute amongst them, by which means they became universally beloved.

One of John Love's anecdotes respecting the late King, appeared to the Editor so very questionable that he was inclined to dismiss it unrecorded; but the venerable narrator, having not only seriously affirmed its positive truth, but added that he was himself present when the occurrence happened, he changed his mind, under the impression, that a man of his great

age, and apparent respectability, would not degrade himself by such a paltry artifice.

John Lowe asserted, that during Epsom races, and as he believes, the last summer which Prince Frederick lived to see, he was walking with Prince George, on the downs near Lord Baltimore's kitchen-garden wall; some boys were playing at marbles on the walk, when the young Prince, accidentally displacing one of their *taws*, gave great offence to a dirty ragged boy, who used very rude and unbecoming language, telling him, that for all his fine clothes, he had a great mind to give him a handsome drubbing. The unconscious transgressor apologized very earnestly, but the rudeness of the vulgar boy led him to continue his abusive language. Prince George seemed unusually indignant at his apology being refused, and credence denied to his word. "That's a saucy blackguard, George," said the Prince of Wales; "as he says he has an inclination to fight you, will you indulge his wish?" "If you please, Sir," said George, rather daunted. The Prince took the two lads into Lord Baltimore's garden, where the contest took place; but though his '*boy George*' fought manfully, the victory rested with his plebeian adversary. The clothes which Prince George then wore were much soiled, his locks dishevel-

led, and his fair face besmeared with blood "Never mind, George," said his father, "you have acted like a hero, never suffer yourself to be insulted he's older and stronger than you and, if he has gained the victory, you have lost no honour" The young Prince was, however, much out of temper, more hurt on account of the defeat he had sustained, than from the pain of the blows he had received

This narrative certainly reflects no credit on the judgment of the father of the late King, who ought not, on any consideration, to have allowed of the rencounter

The narrator said that he never knew of any death, excepting only that of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales, which was so generally and deeply regretted, as of Prince Frederick and that, of all his numerous offspring, Prince George seemed most powerfully affected, his pale cheeks, and dejected countenance, shewing how sincere and heartfelt was his grief

The memory of the old gardener appearing thus powerful, he was asked whether he had ever heard of the Prince and Princess of Wales going to see conjurers, gipsies, and fortune-tellers, at Norwood, and other fairs? He answered in the affirmative He said, "The Prince went *for fun*, and to shew his son the humours of the Cockneys, but it was whispered

that the Princess of Wales was very much addicted to such people, and had great faith in their divinations." He said, that "Prince George was so affectionate and respectful in his carriage towards his father and mother, that it was not easy to say of which he was most fond." "Of whom did he stand most in dread?" "Of his mother." "Was his reserve and bashfulness of that stamp which arises from want of intellect?" "Not at all: it seemed to be the boy's nature. He was seldom either so noisy or playsome as his brother Edward, who was afterwards Duke of York." "Was the King remarkably fond of this brother?" "Very particularly so. Prince Edward was less careful of his money; and when his week's allowance was all gone, which was generally the case the day after pay day, he used to have recourse to his brother George's purse, who never murmured. It was the same with their toys and books. Edward might take just what he pleased; but the same indulgence was not allowed to his eldest sister, the Princess Augusta; she was a year older, and her brothers told her she took too much upon herself." "Was he generous to the poor, or to his menial attendants?" "Not equal to Prince Edward. If the latter could steal away from his masters, he used to get amongst the workpeople, and throwing up some silver, let them

tussle for it. Prince George did not act thus, but he was uncommonly kind and sedate." Such were the queries put to this interesting old man, who described their dress and manners as readily as if he had recently seen them.

One point the Editor endeavoured to ascertain, was, what opinion these venerable old servants entertained of the nature of the connexion which was so much talked of and censured, between the Princess Dowager of Wales and the Earl of Bute, since, if it were such as was commonly reported, it would have sanctioned a belief that the Princess had wilfully retarded the education of her eldest son, and held him in obscurity and retirement, to favour the dangerous projects of herself and paramour. The result of this investigation was, a full and unqualified denial of the truth of these reports, given by three or four different persons, who have not the least intercourse with each other, nor any perceptible motive for denying the truth, although its tendency had been unfavourable to the reputation of the high parties whose characters stand impeached. These persons, at least two of them, lived in the service of Prin[illegible]k, and

they appear to have been very close observers of the manners, and *principles too, of the royal* widow and her court. They had heard the foulest abuse uttered, and seen the most indecent caricature *representations of Lord Bute* and the Princess exposed in shop windows, and scrawled on the walls, particularly about Kew, bearing the most infamous inscriptions that any illiterate and vulgar miscreants could write in chalk; yet, one and all of them declared that they had the fullest conviction on their mind that the charge was wholly groundless and *unjust;* and that it arose *from the Princess being, to use the expres*sion of John Lowe, a *handsome young widow,* and Lord Bute, a most unpopular nobleman. Politics ran high: the Princess considered the Earl as an able counsellor and sincere friend; and thence incurred a large share of the public *hatred under which Lord Bute laboured. These* men affirmed, that the utmost cordiality subsisted between Lord and Lady Bute; that the former, in the presence of the Princess, and at her table, and on all occasions, treated his wife with the utmost apparent tenderness and respect; whilst the confidential intimacy subsisting between the Princess and Lady Bute, was quite as evident as that which existed between her husband and the Princess. It was *impossible,* they contended, for a female of such exalted rank, to carry on an

intrigue for any length of time without exposure The Princess was in the frequent habit of turning off her menials, said they, and many complained of her temper, but no one impeached her honour The Princess entertained a very high respect for the opinions of Lord Bute, certainly beyond those of any other gentleman, but these men never observed any interchange of those glances which are so difficult to suppress, where a guilty passion is reciprocally cherished They remarked, that *not one* of the upper servants, belonging to either the Princess s establishment, or to Lord Bute, ever, to their knowledge, either said or insinuated such a charge Their reminiscences are therefore less questionable, and more worthy of credit, than those of that thorough-paced courtier, and inveterate partisan, Horace Walpole

This *noble* author, as respected the royal family, never gave them credit for a good motive, where a bad one could be selected the plebeians, on the contrary, never adopted the latter in any case where the former might have been applied *They* strove to eradicate prejudices, *he* to imprint them indelibly in the mind of posterity *they* never received either riches or honours from the House of Brunswick, *he* stood indebted for *all his importance* to their bounty But still, they did not lavish unmerited and in-

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discriminate praise. They acknowledged that the *Princess* was liable to reproach, on the score of a want of candour and *sincerity*; which blemish they imputed to the delicacy of her situation, and the necessity of foiling her enemies at their own weapons. They admitted that the *Princess stood accused of duplicity*; having secretly *stigmatized* the Bishop of Norwich, and encouraged her servants, and more particularly a *German Valet*, and her secretary, Mr. Creset, to traduce and insult that prelate, whose dismissal was openly predicted, many months previous to his resignation. According to the testimony of *those elders, the Bishop was distinguished by the* amenity of his manners, and deservedly respected. Their account of the Earl of Harcourt was less favourable. Him they described as having lost the good opinion of the most *respectable part of* the household servants, by the unbecoming *freedom in* which he in*dulged touching the character of* the deceased Prince, whom he was accused of having traduced, in the presence and hearing *of his fatherless children*. *His Lordship* was considered as having been *paid in his own coin*, when he was dismissed, and fully meriting all the indignity he suffered in the family of the King's father. At the same time that affection towards the memory of a kind and liberal master led them to

rejoice at the humiliation of his calumniator, they pointedly reprobated the conduct of the Princess, in allowing certain of her favourites to insult, as far as they durst presume, the governor of the Prince of Wales, the grandson of the reigning monarch, and heir to his crown.

Nothing could be more firm and consistent than the testimony of those men, as regarded the person, manners, and temper of the late King, at this interesting period of his life. It is well known how frequently, during the meridian and noon of his long life, he used to indulge, during familiar conversations, in that demonstration of mirthful feeling, which is vulgarly called a *horse-laugh!* These old men declared, that in his youth, and until some years after his marriage, he had no such habit. They say he was cheerful, and occasionally facetious, but not boisterous, nor full of wanton pranks, like his brother Edward; that he often seemed thoughtful, and sometimes melancholy, seeking solitude in his little excursions, and frequently checking the almost ungovernable levity of his brothers. The senior of these venerable narrators has no recollection of that singular rencounter with a rude and vulgar boy, imputed to the late King, by John Lowe; "but," said he, "*it is all the world like the wild frolics of his father,*" and therefore not improbable. They retain no recollection of

the celebrated Mr. Bubb Doddington. When the Editor read to the senior person, that journalist's description of the fierceness, mixed up with grief, in the behaviour of the Princess, he said, "She was *fierce* enough, occasionally, and bore the character of striking her servants, male or female, by whom she was offended." When asked if the late King lay under similar imputations, his reply was, "He *strike a servant!* Oh never! He was too much of a gentleman! I knew him, God rest his soul! almost from his cradle, and he was always the poor man's friend."

"Was his manner such as to evince a want of becoming spirit or penetration? Did he allow himself to be imposed upon, his commands neglected, his authority slighted?"

"Not he indeed! He was not over fond of finding fault; but whenever a servant misbehaved grossly, which very rarely happened, the Prince had them dismissed; and when once discharged, there was no returning. I remember," continued he, "a Yorkshire lad, named George Millar, an under groom, offending the Prince by whipping his favourite hunter unmercifully. The Prince, though he saw the act just as it was over, did not speak to the lad, but ordered his equerry to call all the stable boys together; and after severely reprimanding Millar, by the express order of his master, he was discharged.

The poor lad took on terribly, for he was very fond of the Prince. Waiting for him the next morning, when he went to look at his horses, he threw himself on his knees, and humbly besought his Royal Highness's forgiveness. The Prince, in a gentle manner, took him by the arm, and made him rise. 'I forgive you, and will re-'commend you to another place, in consequence 'of your past good conduct, and in the hope you 'will never act so any more; but I dare not take 'you again myself, on account of the bad example 'I should set.'

"The poor fellow fairly sobbed and bellowed, but all would not do, though his young master was partial to him, and Millar was sent over to Holland, to the Prince's aunt, the Princess of Orange. This fact," continued the interesting old man, "may convince you, that the King, when a youth, was not wanting in good sense, or a manly spirit, and upright principles. I always thought he had more solid sense than his brother Edward, and more good nature too, though the youngster had more sprightliness, and spoke three words to George's one.

"I well remember Prince Edward having *been forbidden to enter his mother's doors, on* account of some mischievous trick he had just played; and the grooms of the chambers, and pages, had positive orders not to admit him.

Whilst Edward lay under this interdict, some of the great nobles dined with the Princess. The Prince of Wales interceded very hard to have him restored to favour, and, if not permitted to dine at her table, that he might enter with the dessert; but all was in vain. The Prince, hurt by his mother's refusal, was very gloomy all the dinner time: when they withdrew to the music room, lo! and behold, there sat master Edward, full dressed, who rose and made a very low reverence as his mother and her visitors entered. 'Hey day, Sir! who has dared to disobey my 'command, and permitted you to enter these 'doors?' says she, looking very sternly towards the attendants. 'Don't be angry; nobody has 'disobeyed you, my dear mother,' said he: 'I 'have not been admitted to enter these *doors*; I 'have not *disobeyed* your orders; for *I came in 'through the middle window, by the aid of the 'lamplighter's ladder;* so I hope you will kindly 'give me permission to remain!' The Prince looked at his mother in a way that spoke more powerfully than words; the frolic was laughed at, Prince Edward pardoned, and no one seemed half so well pleased as his brother George, who was always ready, but not always able, to help Edward out of the numerous scrapes into which he was continually falling." "You relate these anecdotes as real and substantial truths, and have

no reason to doubt their reality?" "None in the world. We used to talk them over in the gardens, and laugh heartily at the monkey tricks, as we used to call 'em, of Prince Edward." "You have shown a marked power of discriminating characters: whose did you admire the most, the Prince of Wales, or Prince Edward?" "I was fondest of the former, because I thought he was the best hearted young man; although Edward was the most generous, that is, he scattered his money more freely."

"How did the character of the late King stand, at the age of sixteen or seventeen, as regarded love affairs?" "There was little or nothing said about him on that head, till he was in his eighteenth year; but against Edward there was continual complaints After he was fifteen, he ceased giving money to the gardeners and work-people as usual, and then it was said, he bestowed his pocket money on girls; he was for ever scaling walls, and getting down areas, and was locked six hours in the dairy at Kew, by a girl whom he plagued sadly, and who promised she would come to him at dusk, instead of which she locked the youth in, who had no means of escape, and there he was forced to remain till his mother came home. During this restraint, the young gentleman amused himself with disarranging the economy of the dairy, under the

pretext of endeavouring to learn how to make butter and cheese. When the Princess was informed of this transaction, she was very highly offended with the girl, who was immediately discharged, and the Prince severely reprimanded. But he displayed no sense of shame or sorrow, telling his mother he was fond of *rural studies*, and had gone to the dairy merely to learn how to *churn*."

"According to your delineation of character, which is corroborated in other quarters, Prince George was much steadier than his brother Edward. Will you be so kind as to say candidly, *if there was no perceptible deficiency* in the mental capacity or manners of the late King, how can the conduct of his mother be accounted for, in calling the boys '*children*,' till they were men; and describing the late King as a shy and backward boy, childish in his behaviour and habits, embarrassed in his manners, and dull at his book?" "I can't tell, Sir," said he, "but *that is not true*. It was reported, and very generally believed, amongst the upper servants, and in the gardens," continued he, "that the Princess did all she could to retard the progress of Prince George's learning, setting him against his preceptors, as I have previously stated, to strengthen her control over him; and the same motive was assigned for her keeping him so

greatly secluded, and making, or endeavouring to make him wear a *black* ribbon round his neck, and dress *like a boy*. *The under house-keeper* at Kew, told me, about seven years before the old King, George the Second, died, that the Princess said to Prince George, in her hearing, 'Why are you *so* anxious to wear a cravat, 'George? that will not make you a man a day 'sooner.' 'Very true, Madam,' said he, 'nor 'will the paltry riband always make me think '*myself a boy*, whatever it may do other peo-'ple.' The next day he refused to wear it; and his mother, when she perceived he was determined, was too good a judge of his disposition to persevere."

"Then, perhaps, you think the King was stubborn in his temper, if irritated; sullen in his manner, and unforgiving?" "He was not capricious, Sir, nor full of megrims, but generally rational, and I believe, to my soul, always just, to the very best of his power; and when he knew he was in the right, he could not be blamed for being firm. I don't consider it was stubbornness: he was calm and sedate; when out of temper, he had a habit of hanging his under lip, and *looking glumpy*; but I don't think he bore malice; although he might long continue to remember an offence, he never forgot a favour: depend on it, Sir, he was a fine

youth, quite the gentleman in his carriage; but I often thought he had something heavy on his mind: the *squabbles* in the family distressed him; the coarse manner of the old King, in speaking of his father, hurt him very much; he was very partial to his uncle, Duke William, whom his mother could not endure; he was too good a son to find fault with the Princess Dowager; but I firmly believe he was greatly agitated at times, and distressed in mind, on her account."

"You have given so decided an opinion against the criminal intercourse imputed to the Earl of Bute and the Princess Dowager of Wales, it is not likely the Prince could have been unhappy in the belief that his mother was incontinent and degraded. Do you think it arose from any secret dread, lest the Duke of Cumberland, his uncle, or Lord Bute and his mother, would attempt to throw any obstacles in the way of his rights as heir to the crown, in case the aged King had died before he was eighteen?" "I can't pretend to give any opinion on these points; they are above my capacity: but this I know, that the young man seemed to enjoy himself so thoroughly in his field sports, in his healthful and innocent recreations in the country, his gardening, and music parties, that I really think he did not care how long his

grandfather lived. He was out hunting on the morning when the old King, George the Second, died: several horsemen started to find the new King, and announce his accession to the throne. 'Is it certain,' said the Prince to the first who arrived, 'that my honoured old grandfather is '*dead?* Perhaps he has only fallen down in a 'fit.' 'King George the Second is certainly 'dead, and you are now King George the Third; 'and God bless and long preserve your Majesty,' said the messenger, offering to kneel. This the young Monarch would not permit. Putting his hand in his pocket, he gave the man money; it was twelve guineas and a half. '*Take this,*' said he, '*messenger! it is all the money I have: 'if I am indeed your King, the last happy day 'of my life has passed!*' You may rely upon this being truth, Sir, and surely it does not show as if he were very impatient to reign."

Such were the reminiscences of a man, whom Providence has blessed with a sound mind, lodged in a sound body, who appears to have no long cherished resentments to gratify, nor any cognizable motive for flattery. By his account, at this youthful period, George the Third possessed the same dignified simplicity of manners, which he preserved throughout his life; and manifested, thus early, a degree of liberal good sense and consistent behaviour, beyond what

could reasonably have been expected at his early age, and in his elevated station. When questioned as to the *high degree of profligacy*, which the Princess Dowager is stated, in '*the Diary*,' to have assigned as a leading cause of her prohibiting the heir-apparent to the crown, from any active or extensive intercourse with youths of his own age, however high their rank, he shook his head, and said, he had no personal knowledge or any particular foundation for such assertions. "I rather think," said he, "it arose from excessive haughtiness of mind. The Princess was very proud," he continued, "and she endeavoured to render her sons proud also; but she totally failed with the late King. Prince Edward was much more haughty and fiery."

Speaking of the religious sentiments of George the Third, the venerable narrator stated, that he seemed *naturally religious;* was always regular in his attendance whenever prayers were read; whilst his brothers had endless excuses to offer, on account of absence, and made game at the chaplains, calling their brother George "*an old woman*," for paying them any respect: he did not think there was any secret policy in this demeanour of Prince George; he could not believe it arose from any *Jesuitical* or other instruction, in arbitrary principles of government; but wholly and exclusively from innate modesty and

worth. Thus warm, and sincere were the eulogiums paid to the memory of George the Third, by men whose testimony could not by possibility be tainted by any sordid motive; in the utterance of which, their eyes, features, and voice all combined to give the stamp of sincerity to their natural and graceful flow of unstudied eloquence. However humble the individuals, or trivial the incidents, the Editor feels a higher gratification in having it in his power thus to snatch from the sweeping tide of oblivion, elucidations so indisputably authentic, and unequivocally honourable to the venerable narrators, and the venerated dead, than he should, if all the remaining stores of the *unpublished* Doddingtonian MSS. were spread before him for perusal and selection. His manners (Prince George, 1754) grew perceptibly more and more manly, but wholly free from arrogance, insolence, or a domineering spirit. In addressing his attendants, he was particularly courteous; and the more humble their rank, the greater was the indulgence he extended to their failings or deficiencies. In his bodily exercises, riding and fencing were his favourite amusements. He was very tall at sixteen, becomingly gay in his attire, but not foppishly so; his next greatest improvement was in the study of music; and when his sisters or mother could prevail upon him to read from the works of

Shakspeare, Milton, or any of our great poets, his tone and manner were much admired. Like his godfather, the reigning King of Sweden, he was addicted to mechanical pursuits; was well grounded in mathematical principles, and laid out considerable sums in instruments. Of those abstract studies, astronomy held the first rank. The chief cause of uneasiness he gave his mother at this period, was his fondness for spirited horses. Owing to a visible inclination of his knees, he did not appear to equal advantage on foot as on a horse. It was but seldom he appeared in public; but when he did, he was hailed with rapturous applause, and sometimes forced to hear expressions, which, by reflecting on his mother, gave him sensible pain. He was addicted to early hours; and at his meals it was remarked, that he ate of the plainest dishes, whilst the young voluptuary, his brother Edward, was frequently checked and restrained from that indulgence of appetite to which he was inclined. The reports were favourable as to the studies of the Prince, the dead languages alone excepted; nor could all the efforts of his tutors, as respected the Greek and Roman classics, inspire him with any ambition to excel. He was kind and affectionate to all his brothers and sisters; but the last child, Caroline Matilda, was his pet. She was uncommonly beautiful, and no less fascinating in her temper

and disposition. He often used to play with her, with as much ardour as a child of her own age, for which his mother would sometimes reproach him; and the little creature grew so fond of him, that she was never so happy as in the company of *father George*, as she fondly called him. Thus kind, gentle, and innocent, were the temper, manners, and amusements of this Prince, in his *sixteenth* year; *not brilliant by genius, nor distinguished by elegant attainments*, but sensible, amiable, and respectable, affording the fairest promise of that fine model of a *perfect English gentleman*, which his maturity of manhood exhibited, and all the world admired and revered.

In the year 1759, this Prince attained the age of *twenty-one* years, up to which period he had never taken his seat in the House of Lords, never been introduced into the Privy Council, nor matriculated in either of our Universities; never been allowed to display the powers of his mind, his judgment, or his taste, in the selection of his associates. He had been held in a state of liberal seclusion, as absolute and unbroken as if his capacity to fulfil the varied and weighty functions of a King had depended upon his remaining a stranger to his future functions, and utterly ignorant of the character of his subjects. *During the continuance of this rustication*, if the expression may be allowed, those predilections were im-

planted, strengthened, and matured, which, by distracting his future councils, broke his peace, if not the sanity of his mind, dismembered his empire, and pursued the blameless Monarch, till, sinking beneath its accumulating load of ills, his mental faculties fell into a state of immature decay, whilst his physical frame yet *remained strong* and vigorous. Perhaps, take him all in all, there was not, at the age of twenty-one, a more amiable young man in the whole range of his future empire; no one whose integrity was greater, whose leading propensities were more bland and benevolent, whose morals were purer, or whose manners more decidedly bespoke the polish and the dignity of high estate. He certainly deserved to be happy, as there is just cause for giving him credit for the most ardent wish to confer happiness on others, however wide his judgment might sometimes be misled. Thence, as well as being the best and noblest of British youths, it may with equal truth and justice be said, he was also the most injured and unfortunate! *The most injured*, because of those family feuds, monarchical prejudices, and oligarchical cabals, which had excluded him from a free and frequent intercourse with the executive government; the most unfortunate, because those *exclusions* and *privations* prevented his acquiring that personal and practical know-

ledge of his future subjects, and of the art of governing a great and high-spirited people—qualities which were essentially necessary to form a great monarch.

That eminent authority, Milton, thus briefly and forcibly illustrates his idea of a kingly education:

"*I call that a complete and generous education*," said he, "*which fits a person to perform justly, skilfully, and magnanimously, all the offices of public and private life, of peace and of war!*"

Discarding the latter proficiency, which the altered state of the British empire had rendered unnecessary, a slight comparison of the *manner* in which the Prince had been reared, that is, after the death of his generous and public-spirited father, with the great duties he was expected to perform, will convince every impartial reader how radically defective was the whole system of his education. Those who coolly and dispassionately examine the preceding History of the YOUTH OF GEORGE THE THIRD—that carefully mark the various sketches developing his character, *from the timid boy of nine*, to the modest man of twenty-one, will find nothing but what is gracious and good in the composition, and also *nothing* in the conduct of those by whom his education was conducted, which indicated a real,

sincere, efficient wish, or an earnest endeavour, properly and becomingly TO FORM THE FUTURE MONARCH. His education, if such it may be called, was made up of shreds and patches; his tutors evidently were objects of indifference, if not of his dislike; even the *desire* to excel as a scholar was extinguished, either by the *contempt* in which he heard men of the highest learning mentioned in his mother's court, or by the frequent and highly indecorous allusions to his own *personal deficiencies*, so often displayed in "*The Diary*."

In the same proportion as the genius of the youthful Prince was thus depressed, it appears, by the evidence of living witnesses, that he was permitted to indulge his innocent inclinations and powerful predilection for the pure and tranquil pleasures of rural life.

As far as possible, the Prince detached himself from his high-titled and privileged attendants; and he passed so much time on horseback, and in pedestrian excursions in the royal parks and gardens, that it was almost impossible, except by abstaining from sleep, he could have spared time for abstracted studies. Hence it appears as if his ambitious mother had studiously encouraged this desultory mode of life, the better to ingratiate herself and Lord BUTE in his favour; between whom, if there existed no criminal con-

nexion, there had clearly and decisively been matured and acted upon a well digested system of secret policy, to keep the future monarch in this state of seclusion from, and non-intercourse with, the busy world, in the hope that, without polluting his morals, or stultifying his mind, it would retard or obstruct the full expansion of his intellectual powers, and hold his tractable and docile mind in that state of dependent awe and subjection which might enable them to influence and regulate his future conduct—in fact, to reign under the name and symbols of George the Third. These causes and effects are requisite to account, rationally and candidly, for the utter neglect of those great and wholesome reforms, which were so essentially wanting; and for the unwelcome and unexpected presence of many public measures, which, obscuring the dazzling brilliancy of his dawning reign, lamentably disappointed the hopes of those who fondly had anticipated, that, "*inheriting* all the *virtues*" of his generous and patriotic sire, he would realize the flattering promises which that sire had given, of ruling the nation CONSTITUTIONALLY, discarding the system *of coercion, of curbs, of checks, and gladiatorial factions.* For every good he bestowed the nation had to thank his native purity of mind; for every good withheld, or evil inflicted, to reproach the baneful coalition between his mother

and Lord Bute, and those persons also for his every act that ran counter to the wishes and welfare of his people.

ACCESSION

OF

GEORGE THE THIRD.

On that mild and beautiful autumnal morning, when the venerable old Monarch, George the Second, sunk by a rupture of the aorta, without a struggle, into the arms of death, his young, cheerful, healthful heir, had arisen at an early hour, and, mounted upon his favourite hunter, '*Sampson*,' rode out to the *Hundred Acres*, at Banstead Downs*, where a stag was turned out, and the Prince, keen for the chase, anticipated, by the strength and size of the noble animal, a hard day's run; when suddenly a horseman, covered with dust, arrived, and hastily approaching the Prince, threw himself off the reeking horse, and bending his knee, hailed him as George the Third, and announced his grand-

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* Lord Bateman was master of the stag hounds to George the Second; they were kennelled at this period at Barrow's Hedges.

father's death. Kennedy, the head huntsman, was close to the new King, when the almost breathless messenger arrived, bearing the important tidings According to his statement to John Lowe, no spark of joy appeared in the eyes, nor flushed on the features, of the young King, who instantly alighted from his noble steed, the better to interrogate the bearer of the intelligence, respecting the manner in which his royal grandfather had been so suddenly attacked, *and what degree of pain he had endured prior* to his dissolution. When convinced that his sufferings had been so short, he said, " *Poor old gentleman! I little expected these tidings this morning, for the King was remarkably well last night*" " Yes, your Majesty (said the messenger), and so he was this morning, having ate his breakfast with a good appetite, and was just going down to the gardens to take a walk." The young King then asked how his aunt, the Princess Amelia, was, and how she had sustained the shock of her venerable father's so sudden death? and he appeared deeply affected, when he was told that the last words uttered by the expiring Sovereign, were, " *Call Amelia,*" and that, owing to her deafness, and the confusion which prevailed, she was not, on her arrival in the King's chamber, duly apprized of his death; but supposing him to have fallen down in a fit,

from which he might recover, she hastily ran to the bed-side, and bent her face near his, when instantaneously the awful truth flashed on her mind, that her father was a corse!

The young Monarch was powerfully affected, and held his hunting-cap a short time before his face, to conceal his tears. Alluding to his grandfather, and the Princess Amelia, he then said, "*God rest his soul!* and enable her to bear this heavy blow. *All the pleasures of this life are now for ever passed with me.*" Whilst he uttered those words, all his attendants stood around uncovered. He then gave the messenger his purse, containing ten guineas and some silver, saying, "It is all the money I have about me, but I'll think of you the first opportunity, and provide for your future support." Such were the expressions used by George the Third, when the death of his aged grandfather was announced*. He then vaulted into his saddle, and turning towards Kew, slowly waved his

* Some variations are observable between the two accounts of those occurrences, but of a nature that rather confirms their general authenticity, than affects their credit. The veteran, whose name is given as the author, expresses, in the most confident terms, his full belief in the truth of every syllable here inserted; and the Editor felt pleased in having an opportunity of rescuing those fine traits of royal character from that oblivion in which they were so nearly ingulfed.

hand, as if repelling a crowd of noblemen and gentlemen, who were advancing in haste towards him, for the purpose either of condolence or congratulation. He had not proceeded a mile, ere Lord Bute was seen riding at full speed towards the newly-announced Monarch, who, throwing himself off his fleet horse, would, on his knees, have hailed him as George the Third, if the modest young Prince had not shewn how strongly such demonstrations pained him, and insisted upon his lordship's forbearing. Before they had reached the palace of the Princess Dowager, his mother, the news had spread wide around, and he was greeted with loud and general acclamations.

Just as his grandfather expired, Mr. Pitt had left the king's presence, little thinking how near his venerable master was arrived to that moment, which, to him, had no successor. As soon as he found that the spark of life was extinguished, he drove with all possible speed towards Kew, hoping he should be the first messenger of the great news; but he found Lord Bute had been beforehand with him, and the rival statesmen returned to Kew, where, not being *very urgently* pressed to stay, Mr. Pitt proceeded back to town, ruminating perhaps on the clouds which might be expected to obscure the glory of the new reign, from the too obvious influence of the Earl

of Bute, and the intriguing ambitious mother of the young Monarch.

Early the next day (Sunday, the 26th), the young King set out for St. James's Palace, accompanied by Lord Bute. Upon his Majesty's arrival, Mr. Pitt presented him with a written paper, containing some suggestions which that bold and enterprising statesman conceived might be advantageously combined with his first address to the Privy Council. The King thanked the minister for his considerate conduct, and informed him he *had already considered* the subject, and determined upon what he should say to the Privy Council. This was not a dismissal; but, as an omen, it was inauspicious, and proved that the influence which Lord Bute had been so many years laboriously, though secretly employed in creating, was likely to overpower that of Mr. Pitt and his colleagues, and drive them from the presence of the King.

The remains of George the Second were, with due pomp and solemnity, consigned to their stately mausoleum in the Abbey, on the evening of Tuesday, the 11th of November; and the next day intelligence arrived of a splendid victory gained by the King of Prussia over the army commanded by Field Marshal Daun. Thus one monarch sunk beneath, and another rose above the British horizon, amidst a blaze of

unrivalled and *unsullied* glory The Park and Tower guns were fired to announce this event, which was, like all other continental victories, more splendid than advantageous to British interests This battle had been expected some time, and the anxiety of the old King to ascertain the state of the wind at the instant when he fell dead, arose from his impatient desire to learn its result, and by possibility occasioned that stronger impulse of the blood in his worn out vessels, which caused the sudden gush of blood, by which he was suffocated Consigned to the cold chambers of death, he heard not the thunder of the artillery reverberating around, nor could the blaze of the general illumination which followed, the ensuing evening, illumine the gloom of his dark sepulchre In the universal burst of national joy and rapture which pervaded all ranks of people, the old Monarch was suddenly forgotten, and the young King appeared under advantages superior to those connected with any of his predecessors, except Queen Elizabeth The person, manners, and morals of George the Third, were praised by admiring and applauding millions He was gentle, docile, and his love of his people apparently as sincere, as that which, on their side, was so loudly and vehemently demonstrated towards his royal person Under such pleasing and auspicious circumstances, the

ter fruits of the expansion and diffusion of that baleful influence which Lord Bute had been so many years employed in creating and consolidating!

It was well observed, very recently, in 'The Times,' (January 31, 1820,) that the commencement of a new reign is of itself a *vast* domestic incident, forming one of the great marks established by general consent, for estimating a nation's age. Thus, he that in after ages shall have occasion to refer to the FIRST year of George the Third, will, by an unavoidable association of ideas, dwell with feelings of pleasure, perhaps of melancholy, upon the happy state of England at that most brilliant period of its history; when the administration of public justice was wholly free, not merely from secret influence and oppression in state cases, but even from suspicions! When the liberties of the people were unrestricted by every thing, except the *Septennial Act* and Excise Laws, when every working man could earn as much money in a week, as, expended with care, was competent to the decent maintenance of his whole family a fortnight; when the sad extremes, now so obviously prominent, of exuberant wealth and luxury, and pale-cheeked poverty and squalid want, were happily unknown; when there was a strong spirit of pride and integrity in merchants, and

an oath had some hold on the conscience, even where personal interest was deeply involved; when a child of six years old might, with as much safety, have been sent to purchase an article of a shopkeeper, as the keenest adult of the present day; when the rustic labourer enjoyed his cottage immunities, a pasture heath, that afforded food for his cow, sheep, geese, or swine, and fuel for household use; when he could dress well, had a flitch of bacon on the rack, a pig in his stye, and a barrel of ale for wakes and festivals; when a liberal plenty diffused itself throughout the land; when hospitality was not noticed, on account of its prevalence; when ten farms were seen, where one appears at present; when the farmers' wives and daughters, jocund and happy, decked out in rustic finery, trudged on foot to market with baskets of butter, eggs, or poultry on their arms, and when the *sale price* of provisions was scarcely superior to the *profit* claimed by the retailers of food, at the less auspicious commencement of the present reign; when *pauperism*, though an increasing and alarming evil, was but as a speck, a mere mole-hill, compared to its present mountain size; our prisons were only of their ancient capacity; our work-houses very few, and our barracks still fewer! Such are the proud recollections which will for ever present themselves with the first year of the reign of

GEORGE the THIRD! England, at this period, had ascended to the highest pinnacle of her true greatness and prosperity! and happy had it been, if her statesmen could have confined her power and dominion within those limits, and said to their successors, '*Thou shalt go no further!*' '*Preserve what we have attained, and seek no more*' The morals of the nation, *taken on a general scale*, were then in a high state of comparative purity Commerce had not yet *familiarized* its votaries with base expedients, afforded by false papers and false oaths The great body of the people were sound at the core There was less preaching, and less fanaticism, *fewer churches*, *still fewer chapels*, *more truly* religious sentiment, and the social virtues of our ancestors yet flourished All that we have since gained, in power, dominion, and glory, we have more than lost in morals, happiness, and freedom The picture of England in 1760 is most delightful the pen dwells with fondness upon the genial glories of that golden æra But, to return from this digression on Tuesday, the 18th of November, accompanied by his evil genius, Lord Bute, in quality of groom of the stole, the young Monarch went in state to meet his people in parliament As he passed along in slow procession, his eyes beheld the truest love and admiration lighting up every honest face The

windows were crowded with the youthful fair, who waved their lily hands, applauding the Monarch as he passed; whilst free and unbought huzzas resounded from the assembled multitude, which plaudits continued almost without abatement, till the imposing spectacle was over. The King was nearly overpowered by these demonstrations of universal love: till then he had no adequate conception how vast was the fund of affection that dwelt in the bosom of his people.

It touched his grateful heart so deeply, that as he put on his robes of state, he was seen to wipe away the tears that had spontaneously flowed. Those were tears of joy; but, alas! the virtuous Monarch lived to shed many a tear of sorrow, though not one embittered by a sense of guilt or remorse.

Thus cheered and sustained, the youthful King met his people in parliament, if the assertion may be allowed, not alone unawed, but probably with a feeling that the assembly before him was far inferior to himself, in purity of mind and real patriotism, and not good enough to be considered as a fair specimen of the purest and least tainted portion of his nation. A sudden flush overspread his florid cheeks, as he ascended the throne. In a moment his countenance became calm and collected: and with that ease and dignity which commanded the spontane-

ous applause of Mr. Quin, he read his maiden speech.

The authenticity of these traits of character in George the Third may be depended upon, for they are derived from pure fountains, from those who had no feelings of avarice or hatred *to gratify*, and they prove that George the Third, in his youth, was remarkable for *sensibility* and acute mental feeling. That they militate against received and fixed opinions, is no bar to their being founded on truth. It should be remembered that these traits relate to a period so remote, that few, very few indeed of the existent, and none of the rising race of Britons can have known but by tradition. That great and marked change in his personal manners, which in the course of his long—long life, and shattered intellect, produced those outward signs of a vacant mind, delighted with trivial or ludicrous incidents, operated an almost universal feeling that George the Third was greatly deficient as to sensibility, and possessed of a mind almost below the common standard as to its capacity.

It assuredly was the baleful, narrow, *immoral* policy of contracting *state marriages, which first warped, and ultimately shattered his* mind. The father of George the Third, had he been left to follow his own free will, would have married a grand daughter of the great Duke of

Marlborough; and his son, George the Third, was deeply enamoured of Lady Sarah Lennox. *State policy*, wielded by an ambitious and haughty mother, *interfered*, and snapt asunder, and uprooted that honourable attachment; and seeking in the petty courts of Germany for a consort, gave that first great shock to his feelings, which led to deep and irreparable evils, not merely to the King, but to the nation; for during various periods of longer and more frequent aberrations than his people knew of, the monarchical functions were exercised solely by his Ministers, in concert perhaps with a Queen, amongst whose virtues, any deep reverence towards *the rights of the people*, was *not* numbered.

An honourable, although a mistaken feeling of *public duty*, had led George the Third to relinquish his intention to marry Lady Sarah Lennox, and acknowledge her as his Queen Consort; and the same principle led him to wish to control and guide his brothers' choice; what was the result? The deepest immorality, continual violations of the laws of hospitality; the seductions of the wives and daughters *of the first* of the English nobility; and if the claims of Mrs. Serres, as the daughter of the late Duke of Cumberland, are true, it also led to the commission of *felony*, as well as to innumerable acts of *adultery*.

Let us next regard the same baleful law as operating on the children of George the Third. In how terrible and awful a situation has that *policy* placed his successor on the throne! What a dreadful train of variegated misery has it entailed upon his beloved niece, the daughter of his elder sister, whom he selected as a bride for his eldest son! The horrid and vile anomaly in British jurisprudence—the hateful *Bill of Pains and Penalties,* is its offspring, the effects of which no human eye can foresee, no human tongue can tell. Next look at the state of succession to the throne! To the *dissolution* of a marriage, full and perfect, between the Duke of Sussex and Lady Murray! And then let any man of sense, who dares, assert that it is not high time to abolish the *Royal Marriage Act,* by which so much crime and misery has been engendered in the Royal Family, and by which the first and noblest of British women, can attain no higher connexion with that family than to become a *concubine* to a British Prince! The next division will go deeper into this interesting subject. Without stooping to seek after a casual amour, or to drag into the blaze of day those dubious tales of youthful frailty, which, if such existed, had better be passed over in silence, the Editor proceeds to give his readers a narrative of a first and hopeless passion cherished by the late

King, the blighting of which, on the ground of public duty, is supposed, and was indeed capable, to have originated that dreadful malady, which soon afterwards displayed its irreparable ravages on his heretofore sensitive mind.

Shortly after his ascending the British throne, the confidential advisers of the young King, strongly importuned him to marry a *foreign Princess;* a proposal by no means agreeable to an ardent lover, whose affections were already settled upon a young English lady, of very great beauty, high rank, and the most unexceptionable manners, disposition, and character. Very opposite statements have long since appeared respecting this transaction; and the Editor, in offering this addition to the number, assures his readers that a Commander of the Knights of the Order of St. Joachim, so often mentioned in the preceding annals, declared in 1808, that however romantic it might appear, the royal amour alluded to was founded on real facts.

Horace Walpole (Chapter VII. of his Reminiscences) has asserted, as an indubitable truth, that Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of George the Third, paid his addresses to Lady Diana Spencer, grand-daughter of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, and that even the day was fixed for their being secretly married at the lodge, belonging to the Duchess, in Windsor

Great Park. Sir Levett Hanson, in 1808, affirmed, that he was assured by a gentleman who belonged to the Prince's household, that Frederick, Prince of Wales, used often to tell Prince George, that as he was an *English boy*, he should, if he pleased, have an ENGLISH WIFE; *observing, that by continually intermarrying with German women*, the Royal Family would remain for ever *Germanized*, and distinct from the nation they governed. When it was urged by his courtiers, that such marriages might prove prejudicial to the state, by conferring too great an ascendancy upon particular families, and thereby create jealousies and ill blood; he would reply, in a jocular way, by saying, he should have boys and girls enough to connect the crown by blood with so *many* families, that no such danger could arise; and he would never force his sons or daughters to marry · adding, *if they should like the Germans best*, let them take their choice; but I would rather that they should all marry into English families, and then their descendants would be of British blood, as well as Britons born. His consort, having been reared in a petty court*, where the *people* and the *cattle* were held in about equal estimation,

* Saxe Gotha.

and expected, silently and submissively, to submit to every mandate, heard with surprise and indignation those *alarming doctrines,* and energetically affirmed, that if she had power to prevent it, never should a child of her's marry into an *English family!* The sentiments expressed by the father, at a later period of his life, sunk deep into the mind of his son George; and when, in 1756, his grandfather thought of marrying him to a Princess of Brunswick, he expressed to his mother his *strong aversion* to the marriage, who, having other views, supported her son's determination, without saying *why,* and there ended the incipient project.

According to this verbal statement, for the accuracy of which the Editor cannot of course become pledged, GEORGE the THIRD, before he was twenty-one years of age, had secretly made up his mind to adopt his father's maxims, and select an English woman to share, as his consort, the English throne. His affections settled, as it is stated, upon LADY SARAH LENNOX. The enamoured youth was not slow in finding means to let the noble young damsel know of the pure and ardent affection his heart cherished towards her, and if she deigned to listen to his suit, it was his intention, if he lived to ascend the throne, that she should share it with him. With a frankness of heart, which

reflects honour upon her memory, the amiable girl freely acknowledged that, had the rank of her lover been as far below her's as it was above, she could have met his advances without doing violence to her feelings, but, as the case stood, after having gratefully and humbly thanked the Prince for the proud distinction he had bestowed, and wishing him every happiness, she informed him she durst not act otherwise, than decline his flattering offer Having fully made up his mind on the subject, this graceful denial only fanned the intense passion he felt, and perhaps did not wish to control, and so powerful were its effects, that it wrought a sudden and marked change in his pursuits His dogs, his horses, his field-sports, were for a time wholly neglected, till upon his reiterated assurances of the resolution he had long formed of marrying a British lady, and that he would rather relinquish the throne than his hope of attaining her for his bride, she cancelled the negative previously given, and they interchanged vows of love and constancy. Then, when his mind was released from the racking anguish of suspense, and he was received as a favoured lover, the youthful Prince resumed his former sports, though with diminished ardour, for the fair Lennox revelled in his virtuous bosom,—

the Queen of his soul,—*the sole object of his youthful love.*

In relating these interesting court anecdotes, Sir Levett Hanson spoke of them as sober facts; and, if his opinions were well grounded, neither the Duke of Richmond, nor Lady Sarah Lennox, merited *those very coarse and unbecoming strictures, in which the author of the Memoirs of Queen Charlotte, page 217, has ventured to indulge.* The Ex-Chamberlain smiled at the idea, that the reigning family could have been disgraced by the heir apparent marrying the daughter of *an English peer;* whilst, in the most *full* and positive *terms, he affirmed that the Duke of Richmond, her father, had* no knowledge of, or participation in this amour; stating that a cousin of his mother's * was governess to Lady Sarah, and also her confidant; and that her conduct was marked by the strictest propriety *and decorum* in *every stage of the* transaction,—when *her* hopes were lifted high, and an imperial crown seemed impending over

* At the distance of *twelve years,* and the want of memorandums to refresh the memory, it would be going too far to assert that every fact is correctly stated as it was communicated; but such as it is here stated was its tenor and meaning.

her head,—and when, by a cruel reverse, the flattering prospects suddenly vanished, and love was made an offering to *state policy*!

Beset on every side with interested observers, it must have been a matter of great difficulty for the Prince to have carried on this intercourse undiscovered, yet this was accomplished through the medium of his brother Edward, and the lovers frequently met at the country-seat of a lady of rank, which stood in the track of the Prince's rustic excursions During these stolen interviews, which could not last long, the lover acquainted his intended bride that he neither had nor should consult any of his courtiers, but, deferring the marriage till he had ascended the throne, he would plead his father's promise, claim his natural right to select his partner for life, and throw himself upon the generosity of his people for support and approbation.

Mr. Creset, private secretary to the Princess Dowager, and, according to Sir Levett Hanson's narrative, her chief household spy, was the person, who, suspecting the Prince's frequent visits to the Countess of ****, were connected with some intrigue, had the *credit* of having *discovered* this amatory intercourse and correspondence, which, before he reflected how much better a hand of that discovery he might have

made by concealing it from all except the lovers, he babbled out to his inquisitive mistress. According to the narrator, the Princess Dowager was affected no less powerfully than if she had been apprized of the sudden death of her eldest son. She had for some time been suspicious that the Prince was deeply engaged in some amour, but her pride repelled the idea that he had already plighted his faith to raise an English lady to be the partner of his throne! Rage, indignation, scorn, dismay, each by turns assailed her agitated bosom; yet her usual caution did not forsake her, and though constrained forbearance cost her a severe pang, the Princess sent Creset to summon the Earl of Bute to her presence, before she ventured upon any attempt to avert a blow, alike fatal to all her ambitious projects, and intolerably humiliating to her pride-choked mind.

Lord Bute was scarcely less surprised than the Princess, or less alarmed. He saw all the dangers which surrounded them, and taught the passion-torn mother the necessity of subduing her feelings, and having recourse to *sap and mine*, to effect that purpose, for which he expressed his fullest confidence that all angry remonstrance would utterly fail. Convinced by his reasoning, and from habit submissive to opinions so gracefully and eloquently expressed,

the Princess yielded to his better counsels, nothing doubting his fidelity or discretion, and thus, whilst the youthful lovers, lulled in a false security, enjoyed their present happiness, and confidently looked forward to a prosperous issue to their virtuous wishes,—silently but rapidly were the elements of that storm accumulating, which was destined to sever their fond hearts, and annihilate every enraptured vision of future bliss, in which they were indulging!

Never at a loss for expedients to bring about any greatly desired end, the Earl of Bute called into action a few selected noblemen and ladies, upon whose prudence he could rely, to whom, partially and cautiously, he explained the uneasiness of the Princess Dowager on account of her eldest son's devotion to Lady Sarah Lennox, and her maternal fears lest the amour should end in the *dishonour* of the young damsel, not once alluding to the Prince having pledged his faith to the fair object of his love, and destined her to be his consort, lest it should *counteract* their own projects, and raise up auxiliaries for the lovers, where she hoped to create enemies To the credit of the Prince and his beloved, so great had been their discretion and self-command, that no one, except the few already alluded to, had the least idea of their innocent amour At the instigation of the Earl of Bute, the Duke of

Richmond was suddenly visited by a succession of noble guests, whose presence occupied too much of Lady Sarah's time to permit of her meeting her royal lover as usual. Their intercourse was in consequence epistolary; and as neither of them had the smallest mistrust that their secret passion was known to the Princess, they consoled each other in the pleasing illusion, that the time for secrecy and constraint would shortly terminate. But when visit after visit was proposed, and Lady Sarah found herself insensibly, as it were, removed farther and farther from her lover, dark fears unbidden obtruded on her mind; and although she could perceive no visible traces of remote agency or secret management, yet the result of the different domestic movements alarmed her fears, and suggested danger, without affording any clue to its source, or any means of prevention.

During this period the lovers were almost wholly debarred from correspondence; and by comparing dates, it seems, from the recollections of the men of ancient days, who were then in the service of the royal family, that the Prince was remarkably dejected, neglected his favourite animals, and his rural sports, and sought out solitudes, wherein, perhaps, to give greater scope to his perturbed feelings unobserved.

Sir Levett Hanson stated, that neither the

Princess nor Lord Bute thought it advisable to intercept the letters which passed between the lovers. "It was not," said he, "any sentiment of delicacy by which they were deterred, but the dread of irreparably offending the noble-minded youth, and hurrying him to the consummation of the marriage they wrought so earnestly to avert." Such was the state of affairs, when the death of George the Second took place; soon after which event, various of his ministers and counsellors strongly urged the young Monarch to take a consort; but neither his mother nor the Earl of Bute were foremost to recommend this measure. Finding himself thus pressed, the King mentioned his father's promise to Lord Bute, and asked him if he conceived any serious injury was likely to the state, if he were to act as his parent had advised, and take an English lady for his bride? The dissembler appeared as if suddenly overwhelmed by the deepest grief and surprise. After a solemn pause, he told his Sovereign, except a recantation of his faith, he could not call to mind any act so full of disastrous consequences, as that to which he had alluded. Impatient of further dissimulation, the King communicated to the Earl the deep affection cherished towards Lady Sarah Lennox, the solemn engagements into which he had entered, and his fixed determination to exercise that na-

tural right which the meanest of his subjects possessed, and select his wife himself.

The cautious politician saw clearly that every thing might be lost by ill-timed opposition; and finding that, piqued at the long continued silence of Lady Sarah, the King had not taken any decisive step since the death of the old King, all he ventured to ask of the young Monarch was, to pause a given time before he committed himself irrevocably; protesting, with many well-dissembled tokens of affectionate zeal, that if, at the end of that period, his Majesty's will should remain the same, that he should use all his interest to sooth the public mind, and prepare his mother for a stroke which he pretended might break her heart. This was touching a chord that vibrated through every nerve. The young Prince turned pale, and said, "It is a sad alternative in which I am placed; the crown is not worth the sacrifice I am called upon to make. You say my mother's heart will break if I marry Lady Lennox; and so intensely do I love that lady, Sir, that I fear my mind would not be able to bear up against the shock of a disappointment. My mother's aversion is not rational, and I do not perceive that she ought to require this sacrifice at my hands."

As he spoke, his voice faltered, and tears trickled down his cheeks. At last the distressed

lover gave his word as required, and during that interval, the pathetic entreaties and admonitions of the Princess Dowager, powerfully backed by the sedate and dignified expostulations of Lord Bute, developing, according to old state maxims, the necessity there was, if he aimed at the conscientious discharge of his public duty, as a wise and virtuous Monarch, to sacrifice his passions to the safety of his empire. Then he began to waver, and *then* his mother, and his private monitor, made such forcible appeals to his pride and generosity, that the young Prince, agreeing to be guided by their counsels, gave them his word of honour, that whatever it might cost him, he would make the sacrifice required. He kept that word, although his heart was wrung with anguish. He passed, as was said, a week in solitude, striving to master his feelings, and yield up his love! The letter he wrote to Lady Sarah Lennox, was represented by Sir Levett Hanson as teeming with the finest touches of passion. He candidly stated all that had occurred, and assured her, that no considerations whatever had the least influence upon his decision, except his sense of public duty, and his moral conviction, that, however painful the sacrifice demanded, it would be dishonourable in HIM to hesitate. In the interval, Lady Sarah's confidential friend (a maternal relation to Sir Levett), either by de-

sign or chance, obtained possession of the letter written by Lord Bute, the contents of which, though guardedly composed, and the meaning obscurely expressed, gave the innocent victim of his machinations a full comprehension of the whole scheme. The shock was great; but a greater yet remained. This was the affecting letter alluded to, written by the King, and sent to her by a gentleman of his Court, on whose honour and delicacy he relied. Although the blow was tempered by all that was tender and affectionate in language, and noble in sentiment, and offered a brother's love, where his fondest wishes yet combined with her undoubted claims, it still fell dreadfully heavy. The health of the amiable girl sunk under its pressure; but time and reflection had their usual influence, and after a few months' seclusion, LADY SARAH LENNOX was able, not only to forgive the King, *but even to assist at his marriage with another!* Not so regarding LORD BUTE and the PRINCESS DOWAGER, towards whom she felt the most intense hatred. The impression produced on the mind of the King, was answerable to the greatness of the love he had cherished towards her, and gave new poignancy to his sorrows.

George the Third was not a Tancred; but still, if he had been conscious of the secret machinations which had operated so effectually in cutting

off his intercourse with the object of his first love, it would probably have awakened such powerful feelings of resentment, as might have induced him to have banished Lord Bute for ever from his presence, and have liberated his mind from those shackles which his too ambitious mother had so artfully imposed*. Infinitely to the credit of Lady Lennox, although she had detected the secret agency of Lord Bute and the

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* W W CRAIG, Esq in his Memoirs of Queen Charlotte, has thus traduced the character of this virtuous girl,-- p 271.

"The Duke of Richmond, the proudest man in England, was the indefatigable and inveterate opponent of every measure brought forward in support of the King's government, and it was supposed to be owing to the presumptuous idea he had conceived of connecting one of his daughters in marriage with the King. Many statements on this subject have been given to the public without foundation of *any* kind, and I feel authorized in saying that the virtuous, the exemplary King of these realms NEVER DID, at any time of his life, look with desire upon any woman *but his wife!* That Lady SARAH LENNOX might have an affection for his Majesty, ardent and sincere, I can believe, and that she *took opportunities* of manifesting it on public occasions, *even after the King was married*, I can also believe, but it is no proof of the participation of the sovereign, that *she dared* thus to look up to him in his single state, and it is no *proof of her modesty*, that she could *look up to him afterwards*." Such is the envenomed manner in which that bitter enemy of Queen *Caroline*, the Consort of George the Fourth, has reviled the memory of another honourable woman once dear to George the Third!

sign or chance, obtained possession of the letter written by Lord Bute, the contents of which, though guardedly composed, and the meaning obscurely expressed, gave the innocent victim of his machinations a full comprehension of the whole scheme. The shock was great; but a greater yet remained. This was the *affecting* letter alluded to, written by the King, and sent to her by a gentleman of his Court, on whose honour and delicacy he relied. Although the blow was tempered by all that was tender and affectionate in language, and noble in sentiment, and offered a brother's love, where his fondest wishes yet *combined with her undoubted claims, it still fell* dreadfully heavy. The health of the amiable girl sunk under its pressure; but time and reflection had their usual influence, and after a few months' seclusion, LADY SARAH LENNOX was able, not only to forgive the King, *but even to assist at his marriage with another!* Not so regarding LORD BUTE and the PRINCESS DOWAGER, towards whom she felt the most intense hatred. The impression produced on the mind of the King, was answerable to the greatness of the love he had cherished towards her, and gave new poignancy to his sorrows.

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* W. W. Craig, Esq. in his Memoirs of Queen Charlotte, has thus traduced the character of this virtuous [illegible].

"The Duke of Richmond, the [illegible] was the indefatigable and inveterate opponent of every measure brought forward in support of the King's government, and it was supposed to be owing to the presumptuous idea he [illegible] conceived of cementing one of his relations in marriage to the King. Many statements on this subject have been given to the public without foundation of any kind, and I feel authorized in saying that the [illegible] King of these realms never [illegible] at any time of his life, look with [illegible] upon any woman but his wife. That Lady Sarah Lennox might have an affection for his Majesty [illegible] I can believe, and that she took opportunities of [illegible] on public occasions, even after the King was married, I [illegible] also believe; but it is no proof of the [illegible] that she dared [illegible] and it is no proof of her modesty [illegible] afterwards." [illegible] bitter enemy of Queen Caroline [illegible] Fourth, has [illegible] the memory of [illegible] once dear to George the Third."

Princess Dowager, she concealed her knowledge of their delinquency, that she might not wound the bosom of her Royal lover, whom she resigned in a manner becoming a woman, worthy to have been his bride. After the death of the Princess Dowager of Wales, the veil was withdrawn, and the whole of the secret machinery exposed, by which the projected marriage had been prevented. Such was the account given by Sir Levett Hanson of this deep-rooted attachment of the King; to the disappointment of which passion he attributed, not alone the partial flashes of disordered intellect, which, in less than a year after his marriage, are said to have been perceptible to his Queen, and his nearest attendants, but also that profound piety and unfeigned reliance on the consolations of religion, by which he was henceforth so eminently distinguished.

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